



## HOME NEWS

# Only 66 of 245 deaths in police custody were from natural causes, Home Office discloses

By Peter Evans  
Home Affairs Correspondent

Only 66 of 245 deaths of people in police custody in England and Wales between January 1970, and June 30, 1979, were the result of natural causes, according to figures given yesterday by the Home Office.

The figures expanded on a parliamentary written reply by Mr Leon Brittan, Minister of State, which disclosed a big increase in deaths in police custody during the decade.

Mr Stanley Newens, Labour MP for Harlow, who asked the question, said yesterday that he did not wish to indulge in condemnation of the police without justification, but the figures raised serious questions.

He realized that if a person was killed, it could be necessary for police to use a certain amount of force. It would be wrong to jump to immediate conclusions, but "one is en-

titled to ask whether one of the contributory causes was excessive violence used by the police when not justified."

The 245 deaths included 143 in police stations and 102 in hospitals. A breakdown of inquest verdicts discloses that 62 were from misadventure, 39 were accidental, 36 were suicide and two were manslaughter, thought not by police. Open verdicts were recorded in 15 cases and there were two cases in which no verdict was given. One inquest was adjourned.

Mr Newens said that he would be seeking further information in view of the increase, though he accepted that there had been a rise in violent crime, which might help to account for it.

The last full year for which figures of deaths in police custody are available is 1978, when there were 43 deaths, of which 10 were the result of natural causes, according to inquest verdicts.

Asked about deaths in police

Twenty police forces are included in the table for 1978 from which the figures are extracted, but as might be expected from the size of the Metropolitan Force, the area it covers, its total is highest. According to inquest verdicts only three of 20 deaths in the Metropolitan police district were from natural causes.

There was a discrepancy, still unexplained last night, between figures issued by Scotland Yard and those in the parliamentary reply.

The Yard gave the 1977 total

of deaths in police custody as five, including one from natural causes, while Mr Brittan's reply

for the year listed eight,

three of which were from natural causes according to inquest verdicts.

National figures given by Mr Brittan include people dead on arrival in hospital and those who died in hospital while technically still in police custody.

## Technicians in NHS accused by minister

By Christopher Warman  
Local Government Correspondent

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, yesterday accused National Health Service laboratory technicians of scandalously putting safety at risk.

He said the "technicians' action in causing a better pay for emergency doctors was irresponsible" while negotiations were under way. "Industrial action has taken the form of restricting emergency services, which are being maintained with great difficulty.

"There is an inevitable risk to patient safety. This is scandalous behaviour, particularly by professional staff, and it is for the unions to justify it if they can," he said.

The 16,000 laboratory technicians have been sporadically refusing to provide a work roster for out-of-hours duties, which include blood transfusions and pathology. That has slowed the service, putting greater strain on doctors and hospital staff.

Mr Jenkin told reporters that the men's union, the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, was "behaving very badly indeed."

"I find it very distressful that a union like ASTMS, in the forefront of the 'fight the cuts' campaign, should encourage sporadic industrial action across the country to disrupt the services of hospital laboratories to the direct detriment of patient care."

The technicians have been taking action for the past two months. They are claiming £10 a night for being on call at home, £10 for standing by if called out. Management has offered £5.50 and £5 respectively. The present payments are £3, £4.20 and £4.55.

The MPs are led by Mr William Wakegrade for (Bristol, West) who was head

repairing the damage to Roman Point and the cost of strengthening it.

He had been asked to rule on liability only. Damages will be decided later. The long legal dispute, which Newham estimate has cost between £400,000 and £500,000, is one of the most expensive pieces of High Court litigation. Taylor Woodrow had denied breach of contract and the judgment will be of primary interest.

Mr Justice O'Connor ruled that Taylor Woodrow were guilty of breach of contract because the precast concrete design should have been free of fault and defects, and was not.

Taylor Woodrow, who built the block and eight sister blocks, denied responsibility but did the repairs and made good deficiencies in all the blocks at a cost of £258 which the council paid.



## Builders of Ronan Point must pay damages to council for explosion

By Christopher Warman  
Local Government Correspondent

The builders of the 22-storey Ronan Point tower block, in which four people died after a gas explosion in May 1968, must pay damages to the London Borough of Newham, it was decided in the High Court yesterday.

Taylor Woodrow, English

Ltd had failed in their duty to

design and erect a building in which gas could be used safely, Mr Justice Dr O'Connor said. He ruled, however, that it would not be right to find the company guilty of negligence.

The effect of the judge's findings on the continuing aspects of this case are being discussed with our lawyers and the possibility of an appeal will be considered at the appropriate time."

## Tory MPs demand pride of place for Prayer Book

By Our Political Correspondent

About thirty Conservative MPs have celebrated the Christmas season by tabling a House of Commons motion urging the Church of England "to take care" in the use of new or experimental forms of service and new translations of the Bible "so that there is no further disputation in what should be the central and regular place of honour of the Book of Common Prayer and the Authorized Version of the Bible in the mainstream of its worship".

The MPs are led by Mr William Wakegrade for (Bristol, West) who was head

of Mr Edward Heath's political office in 1974-75, and they include Mr Douglas Hogg, son of Lord Heseltine of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, and Mr Edward de Cane, MP for Taunton and chairman of the Conservative backbenchers' 1972 Committee.

Mr Michael Latham, Conservative MP for Melton, who is a member of the Church of England International Affairs Committee and of the General

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## EEC farm policy adds £800m to Britain's food costs, report says

By Hugh Clayton

Agriculture Correspondent

British adherence to the common agricultural policy (CAP) led to an adverse cost of £800m on the balance of payments last year, according to a report by Government economists. They estimate that the cost will rise to at least £1,300m next year because of higher national contributions to the community budget.

The importance of the report is that it was compiled in Whitehall. The many earlier estimates of the cost of the CAP by Britain have been calculated by independent researchers and have been widely contested.

The Government's estimates were issued in November in an inter-departmental memorandum written by two economists at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. They were Mr Jim Rolfe and Mr Kenneth Warwick and their work gives added authority to the view that Britain loses much more from the CAP than it gains.

Other Government economists have calculated that individual spending on food in Britain will total £415m this year, whereas it would have amounted to only £380 if Britain had been outside the EEC.

## Grant aid to retrain fishermen

From Our Correspondent

Hull

The EEC is to make a substantial grant to the White Fish Authority to expand the training and retraining of United Kingdom fishermen, it was announced yesterday.

The grant from the European Social Fund, thought to be about £500,000, will cover half the authority's training costs for three years. It comes at a time when the next few months could see the virtual end of the British distant-water fishing industry.

A fish merchant at Hull, which yesterday had no landings and only 1,300 stones of overland fish from other ports, said: "It would have been better if the grant had been given to Iceland in exchange for somewhere for our men to fish. They are already trained fishermen."

More than a thousand Humber-side trawlers could lose their jobs in February, when the Government's mackerel fishing restrictions to conserve stocks become effective.

The only alternative fishing ground for the British trawlers is the Barents Sea where the Russians and Norwegians have cut the quota by half for next year to 12,000 tonnes, not enough to keep half the 25 Hull-based freezer-trawler fleet occupied.

The grant is aimed at improving employment prospects by retraining fishermen in new techniques and advanced technology. A fishing industry survival conference will be held at Hull immediately after the holiday.

### £3m shop complex

Five Regional Council gave planning permission yesterday for the third phase of the town centre shopping complex at Glenrothes. It will take two years to build and cost £3m.

## Schoolgirl loses her case over woodwork course

Helen Whitfield, a schoolgirl, lost her claim at Croydon County Court yesterday that she had been barred from woodwork classes because she is a girl. She had taken Woodcote High School, Coulsdon, Surrey, the head teacher and Croydon Education Authority to court under the Sex Discrimination Act.

Judge Perks, dismissing the case, accused the girl, aged 14, of never wanting to take metal-work or woodwork.

## Grant system change 'will erode councils' freedom'

By Christopher Warman

Local Government Correspondent

Government proposals for a new block grant system for local authorities represent an unjustified break in the tradition of shared responsibility between central and local government", Mr A. G. Taylor, chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said yesterday.

A letter from Mr Taylor to Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the environment, said that unless shared responsibility could be maintained local government freedom and accountability to its electors would be eroded to its very roots.

The letter is the latest protest from local government about the proposals in the Local Government, Planning and Land Bill for the new block grant and for tighter controls on council capital spending.

The Bill has been delayed because Labour Party opposition to its introduction in the Lords persuaded Mr Heseltine to bring it first to the Commons. The need to reprim the Bill has meant that it cannot be introduced until the new year.

It is most unlikely that the

## Scots radio station fined £10,000 for contempt

From Our Correspondent

Edinburgh

Mr Rolfe and Mr Warwick believe that the food imported to Britain from other EEC countries last year cost £400m more than if this country had been outside the Community. Their report shows that the adverse effect on the balance of payments here was much greater than in all other Community countries except Italy.

France, for example, is shown to have had a net balance of payments gain from adherence to the CAP of more than £500m last year. "The combination of increasing expenditure and higher contributions leads us to believe that the overall cost of the CAP to the United Kingdom could rise by about £500m between 1978 and 1980", the report states.

"The outlook for 1982 is for even greater resource costs unless United Kingdom receipts from the European farm fund expand at a much faster rate than total expenditure." The two authors conclude that the main beneficiaries of the CAP have been the Irish Republic and Denmark, mainly in the areas of West Germany, Italy and Britain.

The CAP and Resource Flows among EEC Member States (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Whitehall Place, London, SW1).

## Curtains for schools' ballet group

By Our Music Reporter

Hull

The recently reformed Ballet for All, a dance company which provides lectures and demonstrations for schools and other educational institutions, is being disbanded at the end of the year because of financial difficulties.

The company's board decided that although the group started touring only at the end of October, it was likely to lose up to £10,000 if it continued to tour until the end of March.

Lord Wheatley, sitting with Lord Cameron and Lord Stott, described it as gross contempt of court and said that before the first broadcast complained of, on October 1, meeting took place at 3 pm between Mr Christopher Mann, the duty editor, and Mr Stewart Roberton, another duty editor, to decide whether it was safe to broadcast the material.

No attempt was made to obtain legal advice and the offending broadcasts were made.

## RSPCA group wins round in internal struggle

By a Staff Reporter

Members of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, who are campaigning for the expansion of half of the governing council of the society, have won their appeal for an extraordinary general meeting.

They wanted it to be held no earlier than April, when all 40,000 members of the society will be allowed to vote at national meetings for the first time. At present the 22,000 branch members are barred from such votes.

The society has decided, however, that the meeting will be held on February 23. The timing is seen as a tactical move by their opponents to exclude more than half of the members from an important vote.

The activists regard it as a fair response to an attempt to carry out the effect of a recently conducted vote by the council. Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, has described the council's complaints about the new government body as "inaccurate and offensive".

## Tunnel rock fall injures water authority chief

From Our Correspondent

Ipswich

Sir Ralph Carr-Ellison, the chairman of the Northumbrian Water Authority, was injured by falling rock in a tunnel 500ft below ground yesterday.

He was watching the break-through between two tunnel systems which are part of the 112m Kielder water scheme, beneath hills in Northumberland. As one of the boring machines was making the final breakthrough a lump of rock fell, striking him.

He fell to the floor, shocked but remained conscious. He was carried the three miles to the surface on a stretcher.

Mr Archibald Gordon, the tunnel foreman, said: "He asked for some whisky and was joking a bit". The alcohol was taken as a tactical move by their opponents to exclude more than half of the members from an important vote.

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The vote brought to a head the bitter struggle among traditionalists and activists for domination of the society, which is the largest and most influential animal welfare charity in Britain.

Members in one region in southern England voted for expulsion from the RSPCA of those council members who had

offered a place on the craft course with the boys but refused it, claiming it was still discrimination to be the only girl in the class.

If she had wanted to she could have taken up the course. I regard her statement of being afraid as absurd.

The girl said classes at the school of carpentry, metalwork and technical drawing were open only to boys, while girls had to take cooking and needlework. She had eventually been

offered a place on the craft course with the boys but refused it, claiming it was still discrimination to be the only girl in the class.

The court was told that as a result of a governor's decision girls could now take metalwork and woodwork with their parents' permission. Three have since taken up the offer.

The school, for pupils aged 11 to 16, splits the classes as pupils larger went to single sex schools, where home economics was available only for

girls and craftwork only for boys.

The judge said the lack of choice was not discrimination. He told the girl that he was satisfied she had suffered no damage through not taking up woodwork or metalwork.

The Equal Opportunities Commission withdrew financial backing for the girl's case last year, giving no reason.

Costs for the five-day test case, estimated at £8,000, were awarded against the girl and her mother, who are receiving legal aid.

Workers at the radiator company of the Kirby Partnership, who face Christmas unemployment, benefit from an £8,000 gift to children's hospitals in Liverpool yesterday.

When the company collapsed the workforce was left without redundancy pay and more than 600 are still receiving unemployment benefit. But the account of the plant's charity fund showed that the man collected an extra £5,000 for the children's hospitals.

Mr Marriot, of Basford Flats, Nottinghamshire, pleaded guilty at a previous hearing to malicious wounding.

Mr James, who is unemployed, was remanded in custody for trial at Bristol Crown Court. He pleaded not guilty to the murder of Police Constable Kellam on October 3. He was further charged with entering shop premises as a trespasser with intent to steal.

Mrs Garlick said Mr James used his billhook to gain entry and it was the billhook which fatally wounded the constable.

He surprised Mr James in the premises and chased him into the churchyard of St James.

The defendant struck out blow which landed on PC Kellam's head, causing him a fatal wound", she added.

Mrs Garlick said that at all times Mr James had denied the murder.

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## Scots radio station fined £10,000 for contempt

From Our Correspondent

Edinburgh  
Radio Forth Ltd, the Scottish radio station, was fined £10,000 and Mr Richard Findlay, its chief executive £1,000, in the High Court in Edinburgh yesterday for what Lord Wheatley, the Lord Justice Clerk, described as gross contempt of court.

The contempt arose from news broadcasts on Radio Forth between 3 pm and 11 pm on October 1 concerning the arrest of four people on drugs charges in Scotland.

One of the four arrested brought a petition and complaint before the High Court, alleging that the Radio Forth broadcasts were made after it was known that persons had been arrested.

The broadcast, it was alleged, contained material liable to prejudice the administration of justice in general, and the complainant's case, in particular. They were also relayed in the area in which potential jurors and witnesses must live.

It was also alleged that the material might have created impressions in the jurors' minds that would seriously prejudice the complainant at his trial.

Radio Forth, in answer to the petition, admitted that the broadcast constituted contempt of court and an interference with the administration of justice it tendered an unqualified apology to the court.

It added that it had reviewed its system for checking on the propriety of news items to make every effort to prevent any similar occurrence in future.

It further admitted that the broadcast contained material liable to prejudice the administration of justice in general, and the petitioner's case in particular.

Lord Wheatley, sitting with Lord Cameron and Lord Scott, described it as gross contempt of court and said that before the first broadcast complained of, on October 1, a meeting took place at 3 pm between Mr Christopher Mann, the duty editor, and Mr Stewart Robertson, another duty editor, to decide whether it was safe to broadcast the material.

No attempt was made to obtain legal advice and the offending broadcasts were made.

## Curtains for schools' ballet group

By Our Music Reporter

The recently reformed Ballet for All, a dance company which provides lectures and demonstrations for schools and other educational institutions, is being disbanded at the end of the year because of financial difficulties.

The company's board decided that although the group started touring only at the end of October, it was likely to lose up to £10,000 if it continued to perform until the end of the year.

The Royal Academy of Dancing, which is now responsible for Ballet for All, said it would probably be looking for sponsors to support a relaunching of the company.

No attempt was made to obtain legal advice and the offending broadcasts were made.

## RSPCA group wins round in internal struggle

By a Staff Reporter

Members of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals who are campaigning for the expulsion of half of the governing council of the society have won their appeal for an extraordinary general meeting. But they have failed to secure the date on which they wanted it to be held.

Four of the eight regions of the society have passed votes of no confidence at closed conferences in those members of the council who voted in November to forbid two senior society officials to join a new government animal welfare organization.

The vote brought to a head a struggle among traditionalists and activists for domination of the society, which is the largest and most influential animal welfare organization in Britain.

Members in one region in southern England voted for expulsion from the RSPCA of those council members who had

voted against the government body. Leaders of the society in the south secured the 500 signatures required under rule before an extraordinary meeting could be called.

They wanted it to be held no later than April, when all 40,000 members of the society will be allowed to vote at national meetings for the first time. At present the 22,000 branch members are barred from such votes.

The society has decided, however, that the meeting will be held on February 23. The timing is seen by the traditionalists as a tactical move by their opponents to exclude more than half of the membership from an important vote.

The activists regard it as a fair response to an attempt to cancel out the effect of a correctly conducted vote by the council. Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, has described the council's complaints about the new government body as "inaccurate and offensive".

Sir Ralph, who was slightly injured, was taken to Newcastles General Hospital, where his condition last night was satisfactory.



Photograph by Barry Bassett  
Henrietta Wentworth-Stanley, a Crisis at Christmas volunteer worker, with some of the turkeys that will feed single homeless people at St Augustine with St Philip Church, Stepney, London.

## Tunnel rock fall injures water authority chief

From Our Correspondent

Ipswich  
Sir Ralph Carr-Ellison, the chairman of the Northumbrian Water Authority, was injured by falling rock in a tunnel 600ft below ground yesterday.

He was watching the breakthrough between two tunnel systems which are part of the £12m Kielder water scheme, beneath hills in Northumberland. As one of the boring machines was making the final breakthrough a lump of rock fell, striking him.

He fell to the floor, shocked, but remained conscious. He was carried the three miles to the surface on a stretcher.

Mr Archibald Gordon, the tunnel foreman, said: "He asked for some whisky and was joking a bit." The alcohol was at hand to mark the link of the two systems in the Kielder project, which will provide water from the Kielder reservoir, Northumberland, for Newcastle and Teesside in 1981.

Sir Ralph, who was slightly injured, was taken to Newcastle General Hospital, where his condition last night was satisfactory.

## Jobless workers make £8,000 gift to children

From Our Correspondent

Stock-on-Trent  
A Conservative councillor offered a new mayoral car to Stock-on-Trent but the council has rejected the offer.

Councillor Anthony Ball attended the council meeting dressed as Santa Claus and offered a Daimler car from a local garage free for the mayor's use for two years.

But Mr Arthur Chelmsford, the council leader, dismissed the gift as "completely unacceptable". The councillors have decided instead to lend £14,000 on a seven-year-old Rolls-Royce.

Free survival booklet

A booklet showing householders how to build nuclear fallout shelters at home has been produced by West Sussex County Council. Two thousand free copies will be available at public libraries.

## Science report

## Astronomy: Threat from microwaves

By the Staff of *Nature*

The increasing use of microwave ovens poses a considerable threat to radio astronomy, according to three scientists writing in *Nature*. Their experiments have shown that although the ovens produce no more radiation than present regulations allow, they can nevertheless receive signals in wavelengths received by sensitive radioastronomical equipment.

The use of radio waves for any purpose is controlled by international law, whereby particular bands of radio wavelengths are reserved for specified purposes. Some such bands are set aside for the use of radioastronomers, including wavelengths of 18 and 21

## Go-ahead for M25 in Epping Forest area

By Michael Ball

Transport Correspondent  
Work on a key section of the controversial M25 London orbital motorway is to go ahead despite objections from protesters. It runs for about eight miles through attractive Essex countryside east of Epping Forest, between the A11 Cambridge motorway at Thorndon Garth and the A12 Colchester road through Brentwood.

After protests by local residents and pressure groups a public inquiry was held last February under an independent inspector appointed jointly by the Department of the Environment and the Department of Transport, at the recommendation of the Lord Chancellor. The inspector, Mr D. H. King, recommended that the section with associated compulsory orders should go ahead, and that recommendation has been accepted by the Government.

Though traffic-plagued communities of south and west London may disagree, it is possibly the most important section of the entire 118-mile motorway, since it links the stretch that carries lorry traffic from the industrial Midlands and the North to the Kent coast and Europe will be funnelled round the capital.

## Christmas is no cheaper under Tories

By Roger Young

Consumer Affairs Correspondent

The personal price index devised by Mrs Sally Oppenheim, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, shows that Christmas is becoming costlier under the Conservatives.

The cost of a family Christmas, as calculated by Mrs Oppenheim, was £500 in 1977, when the same sum in 1971 was £313.60.

In 1977, when Mrs Oppenheim priced a complete Christmas shopping list, she claimed that the cost was £560.50. In 1978, when she did the same sum in 1974, she found the cost had increased by £100 to £667.

The shopping list, which Mrs Oppenheim said she chose to buy to reflect the realities of celebrating Christmas with the average family in

1972, included

turkey, 14lb fresh  
turkey, 14lb frozen  
turkey, 14lb  
Christmas cake, 10lb  
Brussels sprouts, 1lb  
carrots, 1lb  
Crockery, 5p  
Assorted nuts, 5p  
Christmas tree, 5p  
Tinsel, 1p  
Christmas crackers, 10p  
Bottle of sherry, 10p  
Bottle of brandy, 10p  
Pint of beer, 10p  
Wrapping paper, 10p  
Tins, 10p  
Toys and games, 10p  
Gardening, 10p  
Petrol, 10p  
Total, £667.00

Our prices were collected at branches of Woolworths, Safeway and Marks and Spencer, and a local supermarket in north London yesterday.

The amount for toys and games is calculated from trade estimates of movements in the toy and games wholesale price index since 1977, and makes no allowance for increased value added tax.

Mrs Oppenheim's Christmas message, issued by the Department of Trade, said: "The Department of Trade and the former Prime Minister, Mr. Jack Lynch, and nearly all of the old Cabinet are on his side."

## Mountbatten will remain secret

Details of the will of Lord Mountbatten of Burma will not be disclosed. The decision was approved by the Queen after the executors applied to the High Court.

A grant of probate to the executors will be available for inspection soon, but it will only show the executors' names and the size of the estate.

## The Parents' Guide to Independent Schools

This is what Dr John Kee, Head Master of Westminster School, said about The Parents' Guide to Independent Schools at its recent press launch:

"It is a unique publication, not only in its size but in its content."

"It is honest, unbiased - it is not in any way trying to sell one school as against another, nor is it trying to persuade people that the independent sector is better than the maintained."

On its merits:

"They are ambitious. Parents can discover that there are a large number of independent schools within easy range of their home."

On visits to schools:

"Parents are advised what to look for and the questions to ask."

The Parents' Guide to Independent Schools has the answers for anyone trying to choose the right school for their child.

For further details post coupon to: SELTA Educational Trust, 100 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1. Tel: 01-580 0282.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_





continued from page 5

They went out. The morning was dark. Fog had gathered in the small square, and the yellow street lamps still blazed, giving their muted light to the wet snow and the white-grey fog. Mrs Mutterance headed for Battersea Bridge once again. Amy walked towards Saint Mary's Church, and Wallace lingered at the shop, watching the mist settling into the street.

The London snow had come a few days ago.

It had been an interval of enchantment, and it seemed now as if it had never really existed; as if, in this wintry city, they had only imagined the two soft days of snow. By noon, it had all gone.

The wet streets were blackened, the roofs still dripped, and the fog enclosing the small square by the riverside sluttish the light. It had become something it had always been in winter, a dark city of muffled noises.

Wallace was waiting in the doorway of the shop when Mrs Mutterance returned.

"Any sign of him?" she asked.

"Only this", said Wallace. "His hand he held five white teeth fixed to a pink segment of plastic: Snyder's lower denture. I found them upstairs. I decided to have another look at the victim's room."

"He's not a victim yet", said Mrs Mutterance. "Mutterance, I found out a thing or two. The Chelsea people say he collected his pension. That means he got over there. When

told them he was missing, he said I should ring the mortuary, but the mortuary don't have anyone who fits his description." Mrs Mutterance cocked again at the teeth. "He left his teeth behind, he must have been in a hurry. Those teeth prove it. I know that from experience."

"The snow's gone", said Wallace. He did not tell Mrs Mutterance what he saw in his mind: the dead figure of Snyder, from which all the hideous snow had melted, a grey, emaciated corpse in a side room. Wallace went on. "He tossed over to Chelsea. We'll don't have any idea where he is now. He must have vanished—if he has, we've wed."

"If we don't find him, we're st", said Mrs Mutterance. "Can you imagine what sort of Christmas we'll have if we don't say to ourselves that we've a good honest look?"

"I had a good honest look", said Wallace, "and all I found is these choppers."

Upstairs, they found Amy idled at the electric fire. Mrs Mutterance took off her coat and put on a dry one. She told Amy how Snyder had run to the pension office, and Wallace showed the teeth he'd taken in Snyder's room.

"They're horrid", said Amy. "I have the feeling they're going to bite me. Please put em away, Wally."

"There's no snow left", said

Mrs Mutterance. "We don't have a hope of finding him now. We could have tracked him before—but how can we do that now?" She began to sniff.

"Don't cry, Ma", said Amy. "He's lost", said Mrs Mutterance. "And we're lost. He'll come back and haul us."

"I tracked him", said Amy. She pointed to Saint Mary's. "All the way to the churchyard. There were footprints in the snow."

"But don't you see? It's too late—the footprints are all melted! They've washed down the gutter. Anyway, how are you sure they were his footprints?"

"No", said Amy. "I wasn't sure."

"We're lost!"

"That's why I saved them", said Amy.

"Saved what?" said Mrs Mutterance.

"The footprints", said Amy.

"But the snow's gone! It's unclogged!"

"The footprints aren't gone. I cut them out. I shoveled them up." She went to the refrigerator and opened the freezing compartment. "They're in there."

There were neat flat parcels, wrapped in foil, in the freezing compartment, like slabs of frozen fish. Amy took them out, and showed one to Mrs Mutterance. It had a number on it. "I found this one on Church Road." She placed it on the table and opened it.

"Yes, this was a good one. I've wrapped it up and froze it, then I wrapped it so that it wouldn't get mixed in with the others."

Mrs Mutterance was peering over Amy's shoulder. "It's his", she said. "Look, it has a bise in the middle of it, like a poleprint. He has holes in his shoes like this!"

"And this one I found in the churchyard", said Amy. "His feet were pointing in that direction into the river."

Mrs Mutterance was dropping with rain. It ran off her hair and down her sleeves and fell from her fingers. She said: "I could do with another foot print."

Wallace said, "This is the wrong way to Chelsea."

"But he couldn't have been in the churchyard", said Mrs Mutterance. "That's not how you get to Chelsea."

"This one", said Amy, unwrapping another. "I found near the fence."

"That's his too—the hole says it's all. But what was he doing there?"

"I don't know", said Amy. "That's why I brought them back and kept them frozen."

"You used your noddie", said Mrs Mutterance proudly. "Now let's go—I want you to show me exactly where you found these."

A strong wind was blowing across the river, gushing from the warehouses and factories on the Chelsea side and stirring the water into brief black fins. The lighter swung on its barrel mooring as the swift flood tide beat against its bow. The river brimmed where the churchyard ended, at the embankment fence.

Amy showed the others where she had found the first footprint. She led the way, Mrs Mutterance questioned her,

and Wallace struggled with the stack of frozen footprints. That first one she placed on the pavement beside Church Road.

"Which one is pointing?" asked Mrs Mutterance.

"To the churchyard", said Amy.

The footprint, the little slab of snow, became sodden with water and began to fall apart before their eyes.

"Where's the next one to go?" asked Wallace.

"Home", said Amy. She had marked the spot with a twig. She put the second footprint down in the gravel of the church driveway.

"He must have been going to church! Maybe he's inside!" Mrs Mutterance was excited. "He might have taken shelter there from the snow."

Amy was setting down another footprint.

"Are you sure you found one here?", Mrs Mutterance asked, looking perturbed. She said, "Oh, today", and looked this way and that into the wind, at the warehouses, the church, the embankment.

"Right here", said Amy, primly. The snowy footprint unfroze and, receiving the darts of rain, turned grey.

"Where was that man going?" said Mrs Mutterance.

"I've got one footprint left", said Wallace.

"The footprints aren't gone. I cut them out. I shoveled them up." She went to the refrigerator and opened the freezing compartment. "They're in there."

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Wallace said, "This is the wrong way to Chelsea."

"But he got to Chelsea", said Mrs Mutterance. "He collected his pension money. The funny thing is, he didn't make it back."

Amy said, "Maybe he took a short cut."

"He didn't go that way", said Mrs Mutterance.

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"And he was in a hurry to get back", said Amy. "Temperature's dropped".

"To get the rent", said Wallace. "So he could kick us out and start his laundry-ette. But he didn't make it."

"No", said Mrs Mutterance.

"Which one is pointing?" asked Amy.

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Amy showed the others where she had found the first footprint. She led the way, Mrs Mutterance questioned her,

"I'm cold", said Amy. "Temperature's dropped".

"Slivers of ice cascaded upon them and glazed the boards of the dinghy. There were thin shells of ice in the river which crumbled like biscuits as Wallace had broken the water with his oars.

"We saw it", said Amy. "It was half frozen."

"Maybe he fell in", said Mrs Mutterance, staring at the turbulent water.

"I'm no dummy", said Wallace. "If it was half frozen then he only got halfway." He dropped his voice to a whisper. "Maybe that's how he drowned."

"Unless

# Royal Opera House

## Covent Garden

### Feb/Mar

Revised Booking Dates  
for all performances:  
Postal: 31 Dec. Personal/telephone: 21 Jan.

### The Royal Opera

#### Werther

Jules Massenet  
Feb 4, 7, 13 at 7.30 pm

#### Otello

Giuseppe Verdi  
Feb 5, 9, 12, 16, 19 at 7.00 pm

#### Eugene Onegin

Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky  
Feb 18, 21, 27; Mar 1, 4, 7, 10 at 7.30 pm

#### Lohengrin

Richard Wagner  
Mar 8, 11, 14, 17, 20 at 6.30 pm  
Mar 8 at 5.30 pm

### The Royal Ballet

#### The Sleeping Beauty

Feb 8, 15, 22 at 7.30 pm

#### Four Schumann Pieces

#### A Month in the Country

#### Elite Syncopations

Feb 8, 11, 14, 20, 22; Mar 3 at 7.30 pm

Feb 16 at 2.00 pm

#### La Fin du jour/Voluntaries/

#### Mam'zelle Angot

Feb 23, 25, 26; Mar 18, 21, 24 at 7.30 pm

#### La Fille mal gardée

Mar 6, 12, 18, 22 at 7.30 pm

Mar 25 at 8.00 pm

#### The Four Seasons/Gloria/The Concert

Mar 13 at 7.30 pm

Mar 15 at 2.00 pm and 7.30 pm

### GLC South Bank Concert Halls

Director: George Meier OBE  
Ticket reservations only: 328 3181 Mondays to Saturdays  
from 10am to 6pm. Telephone bookings not accepted on Sundays.  
Information: 328 3002. For enquiries when postal bookings have  
already been made: 328 2372. S.A.E. with postal applications.

### ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

WILL perform details note that from 30-25 December bookings there will be  
no bookings for the Royal Festival Hall or Peacock Room  
and the Box Office, Restaurant and Cafeteria will also be closed.

Sunday 30 Dec.  
7.30 p.m. MUSIC OF THE STRAUS: FAMILY LONDON Concert Orchestra, M. Böck  
(cond.) M. H. Smith (soprano), Julian Stoen (bassoon), (in costume)  
and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Theatrical  
March: Polka; G's a song from Old Fiedlerman.

£3.00, 23.75, 24.25, 24.75 (ALL OTHERS SOLD OUT)  
Concerto Guitars Ltd.

### QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

TODAY persons please note that from 30-25 December bookings there will be  
no bookings for the Queen Elizabeth Hall or Peacock Room  
and the Box Office, Restaurant and Cafeteria will also be closed.

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### QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

CAMERATA LYSY GSTAAD  
ALBERTO LYSY, director/violin

### YEHUDI MENUHIN

THURSDAY, MARCH 27 DECEMBER AT 7.45 P.M.  
Works by FRANCISCO JOSE DE CASTRO (The Four Seasons)  
CASELLO, SCHUBERT, RAVEL, others (solos).  
TUESDAY, DEC. 26 DECEMBER AT 7.45 P.M.  
Works by BEATRIX HAYDN, TCHAIKOVSKY, BARTOK  
PIECES: 20s, 25s, 30s, 35s, 40s, 45s, 50s, 55s, 60s, 65s, 70s, 75s, 80s, 85s, 90s, 95s, 100s.  
from Box Office and Box Office (01-928 3191).

### SATURDAY 2 JANUARY AT 7.45 P.M.

IDIL BIRET piano

### WITH THE LONDON STRING QUARTET

UNI. COAST ENSEMBLE String Quartet  
Soprano: Querida in E flat, Op. 44  
Baritone: Piano Quintet in F minor, Op. 34  
£1.00 (ALL OTHERS SOLD OUT) from Box Office (01-928 3191) & Agents  
Management: T. H. & T. L.

### SUNDAY 3 JANUARY AT 7.15 P.M.

SPONSORED BY M. A. N. V. W. TRUCK AND BARS LTD.  
RICHARD BRIERS ELEANOR BRON

### NASH ENSEMBLE

JIM PARKER conductor  
Return by public demand  
BANANA BLUSH

Poems by Sir John Betjeman. Music by Jim Parker

MOZART: Quartet in D, K.205 (For flute, violin, viola, cello)  
SCHUBERT: Piano Quintet in A, D.667 (The Trout)  
£3.00, £2.50, £2.25, £2.00, £1.75, £1.50, £1.25, £1.00, £0.75, £0.50, £0.25, £0.10.

### MONDAY 4 JANUARY AT 7.45 P.M.

THE SCHOLARS

### SONGS FROM SIX CENTURIES

£1.00, £1.50, £2.00, £2.50, £3.00 from Box Office (01-928 3191) & Agents  
Management: Alan Preston

### WEDNESDAY 6 JANUARY AT 7.45 P.M.

ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Concert to celebrate the 75th Birthday of  
Sir Michael Tippett

Conductors: SIR MICHAEL TIPPETT, NORMAN DEL MAR,  
MICHAEL HORDES, INVITED  
PAUL ELLIOTT tenor  
TUESDAY 5 JANUARY AT 7.30 P.M.  
Words for Music: Partita (W. H. White)  
Tchaikovsky: Piano Concerto in A minor (Sir John Barbirolli)  
Concerto for Double Bass (Sir John Barbirolli) £1.00  
Box Office (01-928 3191) & Agents  
£1.50, £2.00, £2.50, £3.00, £3.50, £4.00.

### ROYAL ALBERT HALL

Kensington SW7 2AP

GENERAL MANAGER: ANTHONY J. CHAPTON  
BOX OFFICE: Monday to Saturday - open from 10am to 8pm  
01-928 2222. Bookings open for bookings for day after today.

### VICTOR HOCHHAUSER presents

SUNDAY, 6 JANUARY AT 7.30

### TCHAIKOVSKY

Piano Concerto No. 1  
Capriccio Italien

OVERTURE '1812' with Cannon & Mortar Effects

NEW SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
BAND OF THE SCOTS GUARDS

OMRI HADARI, JOANNA GRUENBERG  
£5.00, £1.50, £2.00, £2.50, £3.00, £3.50, £4.00 (01-928 3191) & Agents

### THEATRES

OLIVER'S (NT) open 1980: Building  
CLOTHES, 2.12.80, 2.13.80, 2.14.80  
COUNTRY, 2.15.80, 2.16.80  
DARREN SCHIFFER, 2.17.80, 2.18.80  
TOMMY, 2.19.80, 2.20.80, 2.21.80

THEATRE 500 (NT) open 1980: The Winter's Tale, 2.22.80, 2.23.80, 2.24.80, 2.25.80, 2.26.80, 2.27.80

THEATRE 501 (NT) open 1980: The Winter's Tale, 2.28.80, 2.29.80, 2.30.80, 2.31.80, 2.32.80, 2.33.80

THEATRE 502 (NT) open 1980: The Winter's Tale, 2.34.80, 2.35.80, 2.36.80, 2.37.80, 2.38.80, 2.39.80

THEATRE 503 (NT) open 1980: The Winter's Tale, 2.40.80, 2.41.80, 2.42.80, 2.43.80, 2.44.80, 2.45.80

THEATRE 504 (NT) open 1980: The Winter's Tale, 2.46.80, 2.47.80, 2.48.80, 2.49.80, 2.50.80, 2.51.80

THEATRE 505 (NT) open 1980: The Winter's Tale, 2.52.80, 2.53.80, 2.54.80, 2.55.80, 2.56.80, 2.57.80

THEATRE 506 (NT) open 1980: The Winter's Tale, 2.58.80, 2.59.80, 2.60.80, 2.61.80, 2.62.80, 2.63.80

THEATRE 507 (NT) open 1980: The Winter's Tale, 2.64.80, 2.65.80, 2.66.80, 2.67.80, 2.68.80, 2.69.80

THEATRE 508 (NT) open 1980: The Winter's Tale, 2.70.80, 2.71.80, 2.72.80, 2.73.80, 2.74.80, 2.75.80

THEATRE 509 (NT) open 1980: The Winter's Tale, 2.76.80, 2.77.80, 2.78.80, 2.79.80, 2.80.80, 2.81.80

THEATRE 510 (NT) open 1980: The Winter's Tale, 2.82.80, 2.83.80, 2.84.80, 2.85.80, 2.86.80, 2.87.80

THEATRE 511 (NT) open 1980: The Winter's Tale, 2.88.80, 2.89.80, 2.90.80, 2.91.80, 2.92.80, 2.93.80

THEATRE 512 (NT) open 1980: The Winter's Tale, 2.94.80, 2.95.80, 2.96.80, 2.97.80, 2.98.80, 2.99.80

THEATRE 513 (NT) open 1980: The Winter's Tale, 2.100.80, 2.101.80, 2.102.80, 2.103.80, 2.104.80, 2.105.80

THEATRE 514 (NT) open 1980: The Winter's Tale, 2.106.80, 2.107.80, 2.108.80, 2.109.80, 2.110.80, 2.111.80

THEATRE 515 (NT) open 1980: The Winter's Tale, 2.112.80, 2.113.80, 2.114.80, 2.115.80, 2.116.80, 2.117.80

THEATRE 516 (NT) open 1980: The Winter's Tale, 2.118.80, 2.119.80, 2.120.80, 2.121.80, 2.122.80, 2.123.80

THEATRE 517 (NT) open 1980: The Winter's Tale, 2.124.80, 2.125.80, 2.126.80, 2.127.80, 2.128.80, 2.129.80

THEATRE 518 (NT) open 1980: The Winter's Tale, 2.130.80, 2.131.80, 2.132.80, 2.133.80, 2.134.80, 2.135.80

THEATRE 519 (NT) open 1980: The Winter's Tale, 2.136.80, 2.137.80, 2.138.80, 2.139.80, 2.140.80, 2.141.80

THEATRE 520 (NT) open 1980: The Winter's Tale, 2.142.80, 2.143.80, 2.144.80, 2.145.80, 2.146.80, 2.147.80

THEATRE 521 (NT) open 1980: The Winter's Tale, 2.148.80, 2.149.80, 2.150.80, 2.151.80, 2.152.80, 2.153.80

THEATRE 522 (NT) open 1980: The Winter's Tale, 2.154.80, 2.155.80, 2.156.80, 2.157.80, 2.158.80, 2.159.80

THEATRE 523 (NT) open 1980: The Winter's Tale, 2.160.80, 2.161.80, 2.162.80, 2.163.80, 2.164.80, 2.165.80

THEATRE 524 (NT) open 1980: The Winter's Tale, 2.166.80, 2.167.80, 2.168.80, 2.169.80, 2.170.80, 2.171.80

THEATRE 525 (NT) open 1980: The Winter's Tale, 2.172.80, 2.173.80, 2.174.80, 2.175.80, 2.176.80, 2.177.80

THEATRE 526 (NT) open 1980: The Winter's Tale, 2.178.80, 2.179.80, 2.180.80, 2.181.80, 2.182.80, 2.183.80

THEATRE 52

## PERSONAL CHOICE

in Cleese and Peter Cook in *The Secret Policeman's Ball* (V, 11.15)

Radio comes into its own at Christmas. Some say, indeed, that during this season that it reestablishes its old monopoly in broadcasting, and I must say that, looking at some next week's film-choked TV schedules, I have some sympathy. The old magic starts with today's programmes. Before Midnight (Radio 4, 11.45) is taken up with what

every can deny is the shortest pantomime ever heard on radio—Morley's 15-minute version of Aladdin, with Alfred Marks as Abanazar, Hugh Paddick as Widow Twankey, Polly James as dinn and Fenella Fielding as both Genie of the Ring and tomine Harse... Sir John Betjeman includes his evocative Christmas in his personal choice of poetry and prose in Great Pleasure (Radio 4, 6.55). Naturally, he will read it himself... Tonight's Saturday Night Theatre play, Can Can, by Noel Robson (Radio 4, 8.30) is a fanciful story about

inbach in deep financial trouble. Edward de Souza plays the star of operetta and Maureen O'Brien, voted best actress in the last Pye Radio Awards, plays Offenbach's wife.

tonight's ITV presentation of The Secret Policeman's Ball (15) is an expurgated version of the Amnesty International' sedy gala staged at Her Majesty's Theatre in London earlier year. Expurgated not just for reasons of length but because the scatological nature of some of the items. The prurient will be satisfied to their curiosity if they buy the record, put out stand Records (proceeds all go to Amnesty International) which contains 12 items from the stage show. They should not, ever, expect to be too shocked, for much of the material is bijectionable and, indeed, very funny. I am happy to hear that retained items you can see tonight include John Cleese's and Peter Cook's conversation about interesting facts ("arable land and tilled by Arabs"), Peter Cook and the entire cast waiting the end of the world ("did you bring the bag of ornaments?") and the John Cleese/Michael Palin/Terry Jones/Atkinson sketch about the four Yorkshire men who vie each other to produce the most awful memory of the bad days. The verbal luminescence is counterbalanced by John Williams's ar playing.

here are female impersonators—and then there are Hinge and met. They have created, and exclusively occupy, a category their own. Not for a moment does the facade crack. George is in total Evadne Hinge and Patrick Fyfe is totally Hilda. So completely have they effaced their true selves, indeed, it comes as something of a shock to see their real names taken down. You can hear their Christmas gala evening (tonight 2, 9.50), Edwardians with tassel, epistles on file.

AT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: + STEREO; \* BLACK AND WHITE; REPEAT.

## PERSONAL CHOICE

sela Rowe and Robert Bristow who play Mary Joseph in *Star* (ITV, 6.15)

esla Meghey's film Schlecken the Painter (BBC 1, 10.55) is a superbly ghost story about a painter's niece (Cheryl sedy) who, in exchange for much gold, is married off to a tly spectre (John Justin). It is superior because it is firmly done one of Sheridan LeFanu's most complex short stories, use it is so lit and costumed and composed that it resembles ing so much as a series of Vermeer paintings fused into one aer (the period is the seventeenth century), and because it is a tale of sexual obsession so explicitly told that it makes you to doubt the evidence of your senses. Some of Godfried lecken's paintings are used as part of the narrative, but it disillusion you by revealing that the inspirational—the girl with the candle and the Something glowing in dark—is a composite and, therefore, a BBC leg-pull. with I could be more eratic about Henry V (BBC 2, 1), but after Henry IV parts 1 and 2, it is a let-down. It is gothic play and menace is played with all stops out, with a day of nonstop fluttering and war speeches blazin nostrils flaring and soldiers scrumming at the leath, it will not. Cedric Messina's production is too tightly reignined and no impression of mighty events about. David Gwilliam's his rallying speech before the walls of Harfleur as if he's school's Rugby captain giving his players a pep talk, his enigmatic smile as he sweeps through France is justly perplexing. I think Jocelyn Pook's Katherine right as anyone has ever got, and Alec McCowen puts us right in the picture as Chorus, but some of the best playing be found in the minor roles such as David Pinner's esophic son, Williams, and Garrick Hagon's stely, tly herald.

many things to recommend on radio today, but I have a mere to mention the repeats of the Graham Greene at come's A Christmas Carol, with Roy Doree as Scrooge (Radio 4, 9.00), the News Quiz of the Year (Radio 4, 10.15), which should help clear those alcholic fumes from your head, Daniel Barenboim's playing of Schumann's Kinderszenen and die 3, 8.30) to which you should devote your complete and divided attention.

## Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davall

## TELEVISION

## BBC 1

9.30 am Multi-Coloured Swap Show. Noel Edmonds's somming-for-everyone show, with some of the City's top politicians John Salice and young ornithologist Peter Holden.

12.15 pm Grandstand: The line-up includes Football, 10.30 am and 3.30 pm Swimming (Arena Sprint from Coventry); 12.45 International Weightlifting (from Tokyo); Racing from Cheltenham at 1.30 pm (the Cheltenham Gold Cup); 2.15 pm and 4.45 Badminton (Ladbrooke Trophy) at 1.25 and 2.35.

3.15 Bugs Bunny cartoon. Bugs Bunny in King Harald's Court. A long cartoon that's as good as any.

3.40 Film: Beauty and the Beast (1976). The Old, old story, with George C. Scott and his wife Irish Sean Devine (see David Robison's film on Television).

## BBC 2

1.25 pm Film: Cleopatra: Part 1 (1963). The Taylor-Burton-Harrison version. Not the most tedious spectacular film ever made, despite its slow pace, you get a great deal of history and entertainment, and listen to Alex North's music. Part two tomorrow afternoon at 3.25.

3.15 Play Away: carols and fun for children. Many of the carols are sung by children from Leicester school.

3.40 Horizon: Repet of last Monday's edition in which Gordon Rattray-Taylor looked back on the major developments in science and technology over the past decade.

3.50 News and sport.

4.15 pm Christmas: A special

Christmas edition in which Rita (Wendy Craig) is almost over-

whelmed by the preparations for the festival.

7.35 The Paul Daniels Magic Show: Tricks from Mr Daniels and

Friends. 7.45 pm Regional news. 7.45 pm Close.

5.10 Today's Sport with Frank Bough.

5.15 News: with Angela Rippon.

5.25 Tom and Jerry: cartoon.

5.35 Bassi's Christmas Party: The wily fox at a barn dance and a pantomime. Guests include singer Seán Ó Riada and bird-impostor Peter Holden.

5.40 Who: part 1 of a new

adventure. The Horns of Nimon.

6.25 Christmas Snowtime Special: Frosty the Swiss Polar Bear. Introduced by Barry Humphries (as Dame Edna), with Abbe, Boney M, Leo Sayer, Kate Bush and many others.

7.30 Regions.

BBC 1 VARIATIONS: Wales: 5.10 pm Sport: 5.15 pm News and Sport; 5.25 pm Scoreboard; 5.40 Sportsdesk; 6.40 Sportline; 10.10 pm News; 10.30 pm Weather. NORTHERN IRELAND: 5.25 pm News; 6.45 pm Sport; 7.30 pm Weather. ENGLAND: 5.25 pm Regional news. 7.45 pm Close.

5.10 Saturday Club: music for tomorrow, from Glasgow. With the Glasgow Youth Theatre and music from The Skids and The Revolts.

Also an item on the city's bouncers. The Story of Britain: repeat of last Monday's feature about the cathedral city of St David's in Pembrokeshire. We see some local families preparing for Christmas.

5.30 Film: Help! (1965). A classic comedy, with the four pursued by Leo McKern, leader of an odd Eastern sect. Directed by Richard Lester who had already made A Hard Day's Night.

6.00 News and sport.

6.30 Film: Christmas: A collection of very good as well as indifferent sequences from the films of Laurel and Hardy, Charley

amazing feats by Jeffrey Atkins (illusionist), Dabu Brumback (knife thrower), Babu Mallik (hand balancing), Wong Mow Ting (shadow puppets).

6.40 Dallas: more tales of the oil-rich Texan family, the Ewings. Tonight's hunting trip that almost ends in tragedy.

6.50 Match with Angela Rippon.

7.00 Match of the Day: Action highlights from two of today's big league games.

7.20 Parkinson: His guests tonight are James Galway, Laurie Lee and London basker Ronnie Ross.

7.40 Weather...

7.50 Regions.

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6.30 Film: Christmas: A collection of very good as well as indifferent sequences from the films of Laurel and Hardy, Charley

and Buster Keaton. Too long to be really satisfactory, but of course you will laugh now and again.

6.40 Sings and Bracket: A Special Christmas edition recorded at the Royal Albert Hall.

6.50 Desert Islands Discs.

6.55 With Great Pleasure.

7.00 Baker's Dozen: t

Play: Can I Can, by Michael Robson.

7.15 News.

7.30 Lighten Our Darkness.

7.45 The Spinners: t

10.30 News.

12.15-12.23 am Weather.

VHF

10.30am-11.00pm East in Parliament.

4.00 News.

4.15 Chapter and Verse: book review.

4.30 Time for Verse.

4.40 The Magic of Music: t

5.25 Weekend: t

6.00 News.

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7.15 News.

7.30 Piano (Pleymire): Bach.

8.00 News.

8.15 Talk (Goshr): Modern Music.

8.30 Ariadne auf Naxos, cont.

10.05 Piano (Pleymire): Bach.

10.30 News.

11.05 Talk (Edward Gordon Craig): The Old School of Acting.

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8



Shoparound with Beryl Downing

## Guess who chose what?

There are some who start their Christmas shopping in January sales, which doesn't seem to me to lack a certain contumacy. At the other extreme are those who are so gullible, so improvident, so lazy, so rich that they overlook, or don't notice, or forget, ignore their presents buying until the last minute.

If you are one of these, you are unlikely to get through the year unscathed unless you can afford to go out and buy Harrods gift-wrapped, a guide which is just what People Want.

Everything is actually sold, choose if they were en carte blanche.

So I made a selection of people who might be said to be, if not everything, at least more than their fair share of something—he has a lot, personality, popularity, talent, wit, wisdom and asked them to pick their perfect present. If you can't get out the clues from the herrings and guess who does what, you may win a sponge start to the New Year.

All you have to do is study the captions, decide who does what and give your answers in alphabetical order, a postcard, please. So if I think Alan Coren wants in weather tennis court and

it Sir Guy Salisbury-Jones old like his own theatre, it's A-3, B-2 and so on.

Send your cards, with your name, address and telephone number to Christmas Shoparound, The Times, PO Box 7, 100, Printing House Square, 100, London WC1X 2Z.

The senders of the first correct entries received by Friday, December 31 will each receive two bottles of Veuve Clicquot non-vintage champagne. Winners names will be published in *Shoparound* on January 5.

**A**

Alan Coren became *Punch's* latest and most irreverent editor in 1977. He also writes children's books and periodicals of Idi Amin and as humour is an essential quality in a tandems for me. *People Want* Have Everything covered so he would be well in the front running if only my cutting didn't tell me that he was born south of Watford. That, no, any respectable Northerner like me, is quite the wrong side of the tracks.

**B**

Major General Sir Guy Salisbury-Jones, retired marshal of the diplomatic corps, pioneered the revival of English viticulture and produces some of the finest English wines at Hambleton, North Yorkshire. His choice was appropriately convivial.

**1**

A BAC executive jet. It has eight seats, will fly non-stop for 2,500 nautical miles and meets all noise requirements. You could go out and buy one tomorrow because our crazy trading rules allow the purchase of aircraft on Sundays, but not anything useful like legs of lamb. The 25 will cost £2.5m, including gold plated tape video cassettes for in-flight entertainment are an optional extra.

**2**

I'd love a theatre of my own, as long as it was somewhere it would do good business. We can't guarantee the financial returns, but you might get the National Theatre at a reasonable price, considering its headaches. It had cost £15m, in the time it had its opening performance in 1976 and it isn't finished yet.

**3**

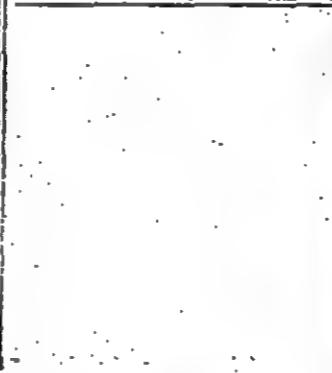
An all-weather tennis court. The Centre Court isn't exactly all-weather, so you should book for a couple of groundsmen to run out and cover it up when necessary. Knight, Frank and Rutley, who have been surveyors for Wimbledon for 23 years, estimate that to rebuild the Centre Court now would cost around £12m.



**C**  
The Prince of Wales, obviously, couldn't say what he would really like in case he got it. "Your guess is as good as ours", said Buckingham Palace press office, so I took them at their word and asked Tim Head, whose biography of Prince Charles has just been published in America, to make "an educated guess".



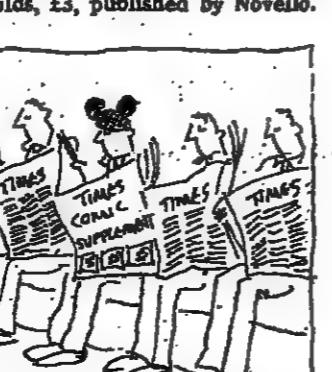
**D**  
John Asprey is the latest member of the family to become chairman of the business in New Bond Street which was founded by William Asprey in 1781 and has specialized in silver, gold and leatherwork ever since. His choice was reasonable but in view of his new responsibilities, unlikely.



**E**  
Lord Richard Newport, heir to the Earl of Bradford and to 4,500 acres of farmland in Shropshire, owns Porters restaurant and the Caviar Bar in Knightsbridge. His choice of gift was, rather more than I expected. In fact, not to put too fine a point on it, downright greedy.



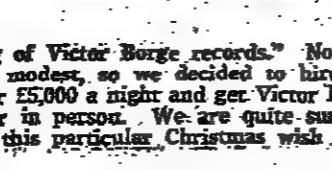
**F**  
Donald Sinden was relaxing in his dressing room at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, when we met. He had just taken off his nose and had a "discovering" white centre to his otherwise Othello-like black face, rather like an extremely handsome liquorice allsort. Had he not become an actor he would have become an architect, although his choice shows a tendency to form lines rather than columns.



**G**  
Penelope Keith has spent a great deal of her television life appearing to have everything—the insatiable Margot in *The Good Life* and, more recently, as Audrey Horber-Hamilton in *To the Manor Born*. Under the circumstances her choice is a mite suburban.



**H**  
"A month in the Greek islands." This seemed such a modest request we felt we could do better and provide a whole private island. Montpelier Properties International could show you one within three quarters of an hour's helicopter ride from Athens at a mere £900,000. No facilities, of course, but when you are keeping up with the Niarchoses, you don't count the cost of laying a pipeline or two.



**I**  
See Lawley, instead of going to RADA as she wanted, went to Bristol University and got turned down by the BBC. She had her revenge by refusing *Nationwide* when it was first offered, but now all is forgiven. Patrons of the Willenhall Palais outside Wolverhampton may remember her as a 16-year-old singer whose ambition was to be the Black Country's answer to Julie Andrews. However, if she gets her Christmas wish, it could take her back to square one.



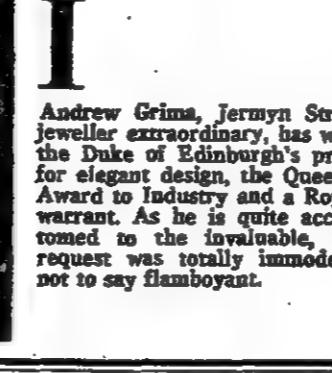
**J**  
Sir Geoffrey Howe who, as holder of the nation's purse strings, may be said to have everything or nothing, depending on your point of view, chose a very modest gift. We just hope he is not envisaging



**K**  
All John Inman wants for Christmas is a teddy bear, so I collected them to give to children in hospital and my own could get into the charity opening of his pantomime in Oxford last week unless accompanied by a toy. If you happen to be passing the door of The New Theatre, Oxford, this weekend and can add another teddy or toy, that will mean that another child will have a brighter Christmas day. John Inman's Christmas choice will also give a great deal of pleasure.



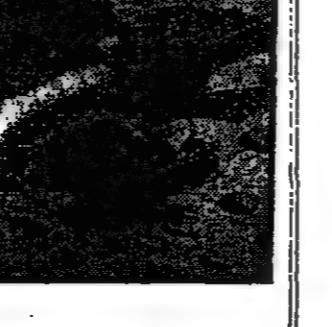
**L**  
Jacqueline du Pre won her first music prize at the age of 10 and made her concert debut at the Wigmore Hall when she was 15. She has studied with William Pleeth, Paul Tortelier and Rostropovich and has played with principal orchestras throughout the world. She received the OBE in 1976. Her choice is entirely entertaining.



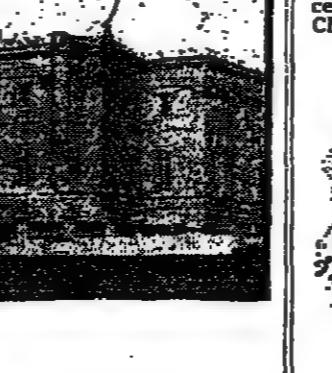
**M**  
Beryl Bainbridge began her career by writing a poem about the Armada when she was 11. Nicknamed "Basher", she was expelled for writing "unsuitable" rhymes, a judgment she later vindicated by winning the Whitbread prize and by being twice runner-up for the Booker prize. She rose to our Christmas bait with macabre good humour.



**N**  
Elizabeth Frink, the sculptor and artist, can trace her ancestors through her mother to Francis Bacon and through her father to the Huguenots. She had early recognition when the Tate bought a bronze from her first exhibition, held when she was 21, and she now lives in Dorset, where there is plenty of room to install her present.



**O**  
Arianna Stassinopoulos was described in 1971 by the *Cambridge Evening News* as "stylish, rich and beautiful" and 10 days ago by *The Times* as having "fabled beauty and charm." Any woman who can maintain that sort of praise over 8 years certainly must have everything—apart from the one gift she is asking for this Christmas.



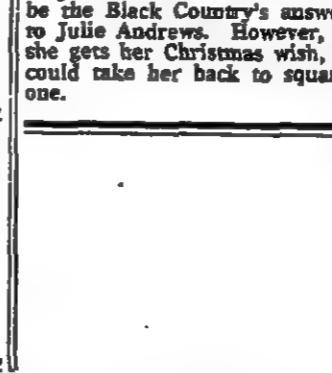
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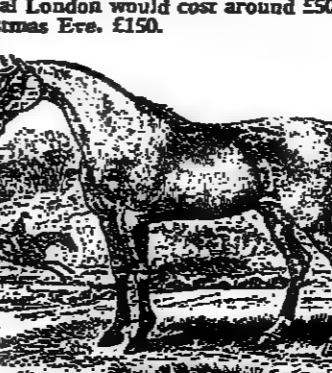
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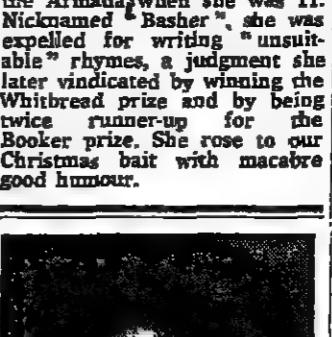
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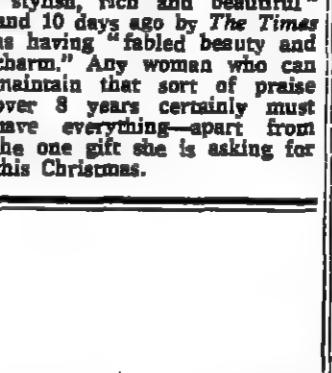
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Beryl Bainbridge began her career by writing a poem about the Armada when she was 11. Nicknamed "Basher", she was expelled for writing "unsuitable" rhymes, a judgment she later vindicated by winning the Whitbread prize and by being twice runner-up for the Booker prize. She rose to our Christmas bait with macabre good humour.



**X**  
See Lawley, instead of going to RADA as she wanted, went to Bristol University and got turned down by the BBC. She had her revenge by refusing *Nationwide* when it was first offered, but now all is forgiven. Patrons of the Willenhall Palais outside Wolverhampton may remember her as a 16-year-old singer whose ambition was to be the Black Country's answer to Julie Andrews. However, if she gets her Christmas wish, it could take her back to square one.



**Y**  
Arianna Stassinopoulos was described in 1971 by the *Cambridge Evening News* as "stylish, rich and beautiful" and 10 days ago by *The Times* as having "fabled beauty and charm." Any woman who can maintain that sort of praise over 8 years certainly must have everything—apart from the one gift she is asking for this Christmas.



**Z**  
Sir Geoffrey Howe who, as holder of the nation's purse strings, may be said to have everything or nothing, depending on your point of view, chose a very modest gift. We just hope he is not envisaging

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Byron Rogers on how the Good Book Guide reached the top twenty

## From Battersea to almost everywhere

Opposite the Battersea Dogs' Home there is a large, cluttered room that at this time of year could pass for the most legendary store-house of all. The Christmas parcels are piled high on shelves, small tabs indicating their destinations. Books for Iceland, Books for Argentina. Some £120 worth of books for a man in Andigua.

The erotic tales of Miss Arsis Nin, and somebody somewhere should forget the dogs howling in the Arctic night. Edward Ardizzone's illustrations in *A Child's Christmas in Wales*, and, under a tropic sun, someone could remember snow. As you pass between the shelves you can almost hear France and Dancer impatient in the streets of Battersea.

It is the *Good Book Guide's* third Christmas. To Battersea have come orders from desperate ladies in Spain ("I am down to my last Western"), from weary readers in Ghana ("when you live in a collection of mud huts miles from anywhere..."), and from bony gold prospectors in the middle of Australia ("We have handwritten reply, I'm really a person"). And out go the books.

They sold 100,000 books this year. Next year they expect to sell 250,000. It means that one large room in Battersea is now, after just over two years, an



### The secret fight of the large blue

In a remote area of the Cotswold Hills, Britain's rarer and most unique forms of lepidoptera — the large blue butterfly (maculinea arion) — is making a dramatic, but secret fight for survival. This mysterious, beautiful creature of the wild, is fighting all its adversaries — modern methods of farming, destruction of habitats and collectors.

The large blue was observed on July 12 and again on July 16 this year. A wildlife-adventure expedition to the Cotswolds some years ago, led to my re-discovery of the large blue, though at the time it was widely believed that this remarkable butterfly had been extinct for more than 40 years. Later in the same year my attention was drawn to a caterpillar being troubled by red ants.

Highlighted yet another discovery of the large blue for a further observation showed that this was a thriving colony.

When the caterpillar pupates, it attaches itself to the roof of the chamber, suspended by a silken thread, then drops down, to lie for another 20 days or so. Then the butterfly emerges and with folded wings makes its way through the passages of the hut-hill.

I also had the good fortune to purchase a small part of the land, which is now a nature reserve and habitat for maculinea arion and other butterflies. I also found a fair amount of wild-thyme, as only with this wild-flower and the red ant will the large blue have any chance of survival.

John Lodge  
The author is Secretary of the British Wildlife Society — Wilderplans.

The experience is unforgettable. Just remember the name.



### One large room in Battersea is now among the top 20 British booksellers. Yet it has no sales counter.

information service and a supply service only if people want it.

"We're not like *Which?* Books are either frustrated by not being able to get books, or overwhelmed by the choice offered them," said Peter Braithwaite.

He was a McKinsey business consultant in Tanzania (for it was a long road to Battersea) when he met a childhood friend, Bing Taylor, who worked for Longmans. From this meeting came the *Good Book Guide*.

Their operation is in two parts. They publish a magazine, the guide, four issues a year, £4 a year. It is an attractive publication, each cover being a reproduction of one of their favourite painters. Inside are short notes on books that appeal to the panel of 15 readers that they have set up.

The magazine now has a circulation of 40,000 and covers its costs. It does not make money. That comes when readers order the books. These Braithwaite and Taylor supply, within 24 hours, it is claimed. This is the second part of their operation, an armchair book service.

"We don't push this. We have a supply service. It's there, and it's available. We are an

information service and a supply service only if people want it.

"We were told to use the front of the guide to promote books. We were told to ask publishers for support."

Peter Braithwaite paused. "We have done none of this." They review 1,000 books a year, out of the 40,000 published. The choice, they say, reflects their own tastes. "They are what I would want to read if I were cut off," said Peter Braithwaite briskly.

This is the second premise on which the operation depends, that a great number of people do not have access to bookshops. There is apparently no bookshop in all Wandsworth, 750,000 people. They quote the Sheffield sociologist Peter Marin's findings that a great

part of touch customers might have encountered in a small country bookshop. Replies are handwritten which brings whiffs of joy out of the Australian Outback. Strange relationships flourish. Readers write in and complain of the laziness of Spanish postmen. They mention German relatives coming to stay. Some sound as though buying books is a small price to pay for having a new collection of pen-friends.

So, where will it end? "An ordinary bookshop is limited by space," said Peter Braithwaite. "But we, we don't see any limits. We are an international bookshop and there are millions of expatriates, all cut off."

The sun that set on the British Empire is now rising again, on the *Good Book Guide*.

Miss Anna, Lady Antonia Fraser, Lord Mountbatten, Dr. Magnus-Petre, Miss Jackie Collins's reveries. They once included a Harold Robbins but none of their readers were interested.

To everything they bring the

chunk of Yorkshire resembles an area through which the Gods have passed every week for a year. And as for overseas... some 60 per cent of their books are now exported.

They don't go in for criticism much in the guide. The sharpest thing they could remember saying was that a book by Mr Edward Heath was nothing more than "a collection of snapshots". Instead of saying that Mr Ian Macmillan has more need of a psychiatrist than a publisher they will say,

"At times nasty, macabre, and weird, but exact, controlled, and beautifully written." It reads at times like an essay by a wary schoolgirl.

Mr Arthur Babbs' *Overload* they describe as "a fast-moving dramatic novel for Harlequin addicts".

The grand dame they surprise: Lady Antonia Fraser looks down from *Olympus or People*. Doctor Magnus-Petre lists his favourite books on nutrition: they include *Cecil Woodham-Smith's The Great Hunger*, her classic account of the Irish potato famine.

The guide is very respectable. No romantic novels are listed ("once you open the gates on them...") and none of Miss Jackie Collins's reveries. They once included a Harold Robbins but none of their readers were interested.

To everything they bring the

sort of touch customers might have encountered in a small country bookshop. Replies are handwritten which brings whiffs of joy out of the Australian Outback. Strange relationships flourish. Readers write in and complain of the laziness of Spanish postmen. They mention German relatives coming to stay. Some sound as though buying books is a small price to pay for having a new collection of pen-friends.

Shaikh Yamani: to him a unified Opec is a benefit to the West.

## Has Shaikh Yamani saved Opec and the West?

For the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, Caracas has become something of a jinx. It has met in the Venezuelan capital twice in the last two years and both times delegates have left without reaching agreement. The split this time is more serious than it was in 1977.

These delegates left agreeing to differ that the unified price for oil which is a cardinal rule of a jinx. It has met in the Venezuelan capital twice in the last two years and both times delegates have left without reaching agreement. The split this time is more serious than it was in 1977.

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### Dr Tony Smith on trends and teenagers

## Kids are what they used to be



Youthfully attractive, noisy, energetic, and emotionally unstable, teenagers have always provoked envy, impatience, and disapproval from their elders. Several recent changes have exacerbated this conflict. Many more teenagers now continue in full-time education, supported in some degree by their parents, at a time when they are emotionally ready to be independent.

As young people have become more affluent a whole culture of advertising and promotion has developed to influence their spending, and the servitude of this pop culture graves on many adults. Students and the young generally have become more active in radical social and political movements, demanding attention by unconventional methods.

All these trends have exaggerated the differences between the young and the adult world, and adolescents behaviour often baffles parents and may seem threatening to society at large.

Are these grounds for concern? Are adolescents today more disturbed and alienated from society than were previous generations?

A detailed analysis, *Changing Youth in a Changing Society* (Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust, £7.50) has just been published by Professor Michael Rutter of the Institute of Psychiatry, who has been studying children's behaviour since the early 1960s. He uses research findings not only to refute misconceptions but also to present unparalleled facts in such a way that they cannot be discounted.

Parents' attitudes and environmental factors such as schooling and housing emerge as dominant influences on adolescent development. Children who are normal, stable and have a low risk of delinquency and other adolescent disorders. Yet despite the widespread belief that most teenagers become increasingly estranged from their families, the evidence is to the contrary. Surveys in Europe and the United States have shown that, in general, adolescents believe their parents understand them,

except their parents' values, look to them for advice, and find parental disapproval disturbing.

The much-publicised influence of the peer group of teenagers seems to operate strongly on clothes and leisure activities but far less on principles of behaviour. Parents' values are passed on to their children, he maintains, a most important influence on behaviour — even on delinquency rates — as well as schoolastic attainment.

On the other hand he reinforces widely held beliefs about schools and housing. In the long run, he believes that the best solution may prove the creation of communities sufficiently mixed socially to provide a reasonable balance of orphans.

Discrepancy rates and other markers of adolescent disturbance vary markedly with geographical area, suggesting an association with housing, but the crucial factor seems to be the concentration of families with a high risk of adolescent problems — low-income groups, single-parent households, and those with fathers unemployed. Once again lumping the disadvantaged together has disastrous results.

How important an influence is television? No doubt it can be a powerful medium for education, but the main reason for concern, says Professor Rutter, is its inhibiting effect on family co-operation. The damage may be caused not by the programmes on the screen but by the television stopping families talking and playing games, and preventing the arguments and the festivities through which a child's normal learning occurs.

No doubt some of these

research findings will be dismissed as opinion. Objective measures show, however, that there has been a sustained rise in the past two decades in adolescent psychosocial problems: attempted suicide, anorexia nervosa, alcoholism and drug abuse, and delinquency. Educational standards are another cause for concern, with fewer children staying on at school after 16 than 10 years ago, and with scholastic attainments (at best) having stopped improving.

## THE TIMES

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## BREAKDOWN OF THE OIL CARTEL

ince the early part of this decade the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) has been seen as a powerful force, holding the fate of the industrial world in its hands. The explosion of oil prices in 1973-74 rocked the world. In many respects the dramatic way in which the Opec members acted unilaterally to end the oil of cheap energy will be seen in the future as a turning point in history of the postwar era.

By quadrupling the basic price of oil in those few months Opec pressed the main industrial countries of the West. Because we could be no equivalent increase in spending by oil producing countries the whole of the oil economy was set on a path lower growth for the rest of the decade. By raising the price of oil so dramatically, Opec stoked huge financial reserves and turned Saudi Arabia into a major international monetary power overnight. By altering the oil relative to other commodities and industrial products, it rendered in effect insolvent majority of the countries of the Third World. The international banking system is still trying to contain the effects of change.

At this seemingly powerful oil, with admittedly every effort for solidarity in order to serve effect for its decisions, always been subject to very internal strains. The range of divergent interests of its members has produced recurrent crises for the organization. This at Caracas these contradictions have resulted in the most complete breakdown so far.

## Special position

The differences have been in economic and financial, in political. Opec includes members like Kuwait and Saudi Arabia with tiny populations and a pressing requirement for oil revenue. Against them are countries like Nigeria, Iran which are desperate for revenue with which to finance social change and development of a modern economy. Further, it contains members like Iraq whose known conventional reserves are running out. Others like Saudi Arabia are the discovery of potential reserves seems always to be lying ahead of any likely production level. With such differences, Opec has never tried to decide on overall production levels. It has conceded its attempts to maintain essentials of an effective oil on the issue of price. Now, Caracas, even that part of the oil from the start given Saudi Arabia a special and a strong position. In effect, by being free from economic pressures, extra revenue Saudi Arabia been in the position of the

marginal producers able to create overall surplus or overall shortage of oil by regulating its own production level. And Saudi Arabia's policy in the matter has been complex, because its relationship with the West in general and the United States in particular is complex.

On the one hand, the small and highly conservative Saudi ruling family, surrounded as their fiefdom is by neighbours with radical and often Moscow-oriented tendencies, are only too conscious of their political and military dependence on the United States. Equally, out of enlightened self-interest, those in charge of Saudi oil policy have always realized that in the long term they have their own vested interest in the prosperity of the western industrial world. The United States itself is heavily dependent on crude oil imported from Saudi Arabia. The Saudi regime in return is clearly conscious of the danger of provoking American reaction, if the vital supply were long interrupted.

On the other hand, as a conservative highly orthodox Moslem regime, the Saudi Arabian royal family has had strong views about Middle East politics and the State of Israel which have from time to time brought it into conflict with the United States and with Egypt in circumstances which have overridden other considerations of support for the United States.

On average, however, it is as easy to argue that the effect of Opec in the years since 1974 has been to hold the price of crude oil below what it otherwise would have been, as it is to argue the reverse. The attempts to reach agreement within Opec have forced those with more radical views on prices to come to some compromise with the consistently more moderate Saudi policy. At times, when individual Opec members have gone above agreed prices, the Saudis have been prepared to maintain high production in order to bring market forces to bear in a downward direction.

The splintering of unity over prices within the cartel may therefore, paradoxically, cause oil prices to rise more than might have been expected, at least in the short term. This uncertainty, however, may have a more important indirect effect, namely on the security of supply of oil to the international distribution system organized by the world's oil companies. For, with no regular pattern of prices, individual oil producers will be tempted to hold what will amount to a surplus for whatever amount of oil they individually decide to produce. In this process a country like Japan with no secure source of supply is already reported to be prepared to pay prices considerably above \$30 and even \$40 a barrel. Consequently, major companies deprived of traditional sources of supply and having to meet long-term delivery contracts are

being forced to turn to the spot market for greater volumes of their oil. The consequence can only be insecurity and higher prices within the oil economy as a whole.

In the long term two major developments must emerge from this serious instability. The first is that the major oil producers of the world must be provided with a means of holding assets which appreciate in value at least as fast as the oil in their proven reserves. It can make no economic sense for Saudi Arabia to produce more and more oil in order to earn dollars which then depreciate rapidly in real terms.

It may make political sense that in this particular Saudi regime so to do, but that is no proper guarantee of greater future

The second inevitable development is that governments will be drawn more and more into the detail of international oil policy, which has traditionally been left largely to the major oil companies themselves. The process of drift in this direction has been steady and will now accelerate.

The formation of Opec itself was a response by the producer countries to the powerful position that the major oil companies had achieved. Now in turn the governments of consumer countries will be drawn more into the politics of oil directly.

## Profit factor

The potential conflict between what a government sees as a national interest and what an oil company sees as the right commercial judgment is real enough. A commercial company is concerned with serving all its contracted customers to the best of its ability. Where there is shortage its natural reaction is to share the problem equally, on the principle that the best course is to ensure "equality of misery" in such circumstances. Equally, however, a commercial company must be tempted to supply those parts of its worldwide operations where the profit is highest. National governments, however, feel bound by a narrower concern for the well-being of their own economy and by considerations of security of national supply.

After the last crisis in 1974 major governments of the west set up the International Energy Agency to manage any such future event. The IEA would be bound to exert control over the decisions of oil companies. Even before such a crisis, consumer governments are being drawn more and more into direct talks with producer governments about supply. The former American oil consortium in Saudi Arabia, Aramco, is now simply the executive arm of Saudi oil policy. The next decade is likely to see an increasing development in the same direction in the relationship between western oil companies and their governments.

## IE BREATHALYSER AND THE PURSE

British sporting instinct is so markedly shown as when subject of drunken driving is taken. The Act which brought the breathalyser was greeted as much indignation as a local that dynamite should be an acceptable ground-bait angler. A lively folklore of is to get round it soon sprang and before long its maddening effect on the number of arrests involving alcohol began to diminish. It is officially estimated that some 5,000 lives and 10 injuries were saved in the seven years after 1967. Drivers cannot often point to unambiguous benefits ensuing from their labours. But by the standards set by Act, an even higher proportion of drivers killed in road accidents are drunk today than in 1967.

At present the police may only stop a driver to test him on certain specified grounds, which do not include such general and obvious pointers such as the fact that on Saturday nights no less than 76 per cent of drivers killed in accidents are over the limit, or the fact that the driver in question is leaving a pub car park at closing time. Sitting ducks are protected.

To give the quarry a chance, the law sets many restrictions on the methods the police use to make a catch. Partly use of the then unfamiliar technology involved, the 1967 imposed a complicated procedure which must be carried out lawfully as a sacrifice in intent Rome if it is to be blessed success. A number of drivers ways to circumvent the law set for them with an anxiety that suggests that their lies cannot have been much aired, and the law fell to the extent into ridicule. Only the last couple of years have courts begun to apply the law with a little more common sense (and the proportion of

drunken drivers among drivers suffering fatal accidents has fallen a little again, perhaps in consequence).

The Blennerhassett report set

out ways to restore the Act's effectiveness more than three years ago. But successive governments have pleaded pressure of parliamentary time as a reason for not acting. Mr Norman Fowler, Minister of Transport, did it again this week. He accepted the report's proposals for a simpler procedure and fuller reliance on the improved breath testing equipment now available, which would certainly help. But unlike his predecessor, he was doubtful on grounds of principle about the proposal that would make most difference.

At present the police may only stop a driver to test him on certain specified grounds, which do not include such general and obvious pointers such as the fact that on Saturday nights no less than 76 per cent of drivers killed in accidents are over the limit, or the fact that the driver in question is leaving a pub car park at closing time. Sitting ducks are protected.

To give the police powers to take such factors into account would increase the deterrent effect of the law, but only at the cost of a considerable intrusion on the privacy of the citizen. Many entirely sober drivers would find it irritating and even distressing to be stopped by the police and required to puff merely for being out late on Saturday. The change might tend

about the rather large number of child carol singers that have been pestering us this Christmas.

We have had an average of one group of singers a night since November 25 and on occasions have had three groups in one night. It appears that the children are not collecting for charity but for their own pockets.

Can any of your readers enlighten me as to whether this is part of a nationwide campaign in support of small businesses, a last ditch effort for the Year of the Child or just a York phenomenon? Yours faithfully,

NICHOLAS MATHER,  
55 Heworth Green,  
York.  
December 14.

the end of June. Because of the nature of the proceedings judgment is not expected to be handed down before next year.

The term "postage stamp" has not been defined by our courts and a philatelic definition exists of it, so that the decision in the New York case is likely to have world-wide implications.

Yours faithfully,  
L. N. WILLIAMS,  
44 The Ridgeway, NW11.

Carols every night.  
From Mr Nicholas Mather  
Sir. Without wishing to appear irreligious, I would like to complain

## Obstacles to peace in the Middle East

From Lord Caradon

Sir, "Troublesome and irritating sideshows" is how Mr William Frankel described Israeli settlements on Arab West Bank land and Prime Minister Begin's policy of annexation of East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza (December 17).

While admitting that these policies should be forthrightly condemned, he says that these are not the issues standing in the way of peace.

This is surely a striking and depressing example of failure to understand how the Palestinians feel about losing most of their land and now the prospect of losing it all forever.

Nevertheless, we can take comfort in discovering among many Israelis a growing respect for the passion ate longing of the Palestinians for a homeland of their own, and a realization that if Israel is to be secure Palestinians must be free, and that one is not attainable without the other.

It was not long ago that twenty thousand Israelis marched in Tel Aviv to call for reversal of Israeli policy in the occupied areas, and an end of the "troublesome and irritating sideshows".

Yours faithfully,  
HUGH CARADON,  
House of Lords.  
December 18.

From Lord Janner

Sir, It was distressing to read in your report (December 13) that the Minister of State at the Foreign Office, Mr Douglas Hurd, expressed the opinion, while on a visit to Jerusalem, that "the Palestine Liberation Organization is now adopting a more diplomatic and political approach which should be taken into consideration when assessing its standing in the Middle East peace process".

The truth was made abundantly clear in the speeches of Mr Khalid Al-Hassan, the PLO representative at the international seminar on Jerusalem recently held in London (Article, December 10). What Mr Al-Hassan said was far from moderate. He denied that the Jews were a people, claiming that Judaism was merely a religion; he obviously contradicted all historical evidence that the Jews had any connection with, and therefore claim to, the land of Israel; he vowed that if the PLO achieved its aim of "resuming Palestine" they would "drive the Jews from the silly racism of London"; and launching into a

some compromise peace campaign, he accused the Israelis of "destroying Moslem sites in Jerusalem" by the Al Aqsa Mosque, and practicing sex inside the Mosque".

All that he said was perfectly consistent with the Palestinian National Covenant, which calls for the destruction of Israel by the force of arms (Articles 9, 10, 15). The latter accusations were straightforward lies.

Most particularly significant was Mr Al-Hassan's meaningless pronouncement that, given a mini-state on the West Bank, the PLO would try to "concessions" amount to adhering to articles in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to honouring numerous UN resolutions.

It is conceivable that Israel could be persuaded by "peaceful and democratic means" to renounce its nationhood and be "saved" by its organization dedicated to her destruction, from her own national movement which the PLO describe as "fifthly and racist". Do such words, plausible or not?

Clearly, Mr Al-Hassan's reference to "peaceful and democratic means" as a way of achieving the PLO's aims, is nothing more than a cynical ploy, designed to appeal to British audience.

Regrettably, it seemed to have worked in the case of Mr Hurd. One can only hope that Mr Hurd's comments in Jerusalem do not represent a shift from the often-declared Government policy of not recognizing or negotiating with the PLO until the PLO recognized Israel's right to exist, and UN Resolution 242.

Yours faithfully,  
JANNER,  
President,  
The Zionist Federation of Great Britain and Ireland,  
Rex House,  
4/12 Regent Street, SW1.  
December 17.

From Mr Dominic Asquith

Sir, Article 12 of the Palestine National Charter states that "The Palestinian people believe in Arab unity" but also calls on them to "safeguard their Palestinian identity". To most of us this hardly justifies the gross which Mr Jacobs puts on it when he writes (December 17): "It is not often realized that Article 12... becomes responsible for the reabsorption of the Palestinians back into the Arab world".

He goes on to state that their objective is "the destruction of Israel". This is to misread Article 15, which in fact calls for the "elimination of Zionism in Palestine".

Yours faithfully,  
KALIM SIDDIQUI,  
Director,  
The Muslim Institute for Research and Planning,  
6 Endsleigh Street, WC1.  
December 10.

Stolen paintings

From Mr Peter Jones and others

Sir, When is a painting stolen? There would seem to be little doubt that the pictures recovered by the New York police belong back at the Gemaldegalerie in Dresden. But who is the rightful owner of, say, the "Virgin and Child" by Murillo which you and I bought for the people of Liverpool, or "Christ, Seated" in our National Gallery.

While we are delighted that the people of Liverpool can see a superb masterpiece by one of the world's greatest painters, we wonder whether the clever, worshippers and visitors to Seville would agree.

We remain, sir, your most humble and obedient servants,

PETER JONES,  
 JACKIE JACKSON,  
 JACKSON AND JONES,  
 St. Beechwood Mount,  
 Leeds 6.  
 December 18.

The art pair

From Miss Carmen Altuna

Sir, I work as an au pair in a parish and so far I know what our costs problems are like. I would like to answer Mrs Irene Bruce's letter (December 13).

I come from Spain and I think what she said about European girls is absolutely wrong. She says that we all get £15 a week which is not true.

In fact we get from the ridiculous amount of £10 up to £15 and most of us get the lower figure. The only girl I know who earns £15 is me.

Besides Mrs Bruce does not realize that we have to pay for our transport wherever we go and the high fees in the schools of languages, etc. How can we try seriously to take languages unless we cannot afford them?

We do because, this is the point of those normal persons, convinced of such a fact, that, if we do not learn English properly?

Yours faithfully,

CARMEN ALTUNA,  
 St. Alloysius Church,  
 20 Phoenix Road, NW1.  
 December 17.

Motorway market

From Mr R. Corbit

Sir, Can any readers shed light upon the new motorway phenomenon inflicted upon users of M 6 and M 1?

During the past two weeks I have occasion to stop at several services areas on these two motorways and the usual concepts of human rights are not even included in the text of the new constitution but merely form part of the preamble.

Since the coup d'état, Tanzanian soldiers have been supervising the

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

If it is Mr Jacobs's view that Israel is to be a Zionist state, he is entitled to hold that view. But others are not less entitled to take the view that the elimination of Zionism is not necessarily the same thing as the destruction of Israel.

It is unfortunate how many of those who cite the National Charter give the impression on that they have never bothered to read it with any care.

As for Mr Jacobs's belief that no one "should force Israel into making concessions to the Palestinians", it should be recalled that these "concessions" amount to adhering to articles in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to honouring numerous UN resolutions.

As Henry Carton de Seignobos has pointed out: "Israel has both invoked the (UN) partition resolution to justify her occupation of the territory envisaged for the Jewish State, and has violated the same resolution by her seizure of territories earmarked for the Arab state... Such an attitude is tantamount to a denial by Israel of her birth certificate."

Yours faithfully,  
DOMINIC ASQUITH,  
The Manor House,  
Ailes,  
Somerset.  
December 18.

The Islamic calendar

From Dr Kafim Siddiqui

Sir, The beginning of the year 1400 of the Islamic Hijri calendar has been widely reported as the "beginning of the fifteenth century". The fact of history is that the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him!) migrated (performed hijri) from Mecca to Medina in the third month (Rabi al-Awwal) of the Lunar year that was subsequently designated by the Caliph Umar as the first year of the Hijri. Thus, all historians are agreed that the battle of Badr occurred in the second year of the Hijri, the battle of Khandaq in the fifth, the truce of Hudaybiyya in the eighth, and so on...

We must therefore conclude that this is the fourteenth century year of the Islamic era and the fifteenth century will begin on 1 Muharram 1401 (November 9, 1980). Yours faithfully,

KALIM SIDDIQUI,  
Director,  
The Muslim Institute for Research and Planning,  
6 Endsleigh Street, WC1.  
December 10.

## Assisted places scheme

From Mr M. J. Henley

Sir, Mr Baldwin (December 4) seems confused about inter-authority payments. These do not represent just actual costs of education in a maintained secondary (or primary) school, but include all sorts of extra costs as well. These other costs cover various general services or charges normally priced separately from school tuition fees in independent schools.

Such services are: provision of books, certain transport costs, school meals, school uniform (for primary schools) and child guidance. Loan charges present a larger financial burden upon local education authorities than is the case with independent schools, but are a factor in inter-authority payments. Loan charges and school meals account together for about 15 per cent of the inter-authority payment.

Within the larger rate-borne expenditure context account has to be taken of costs of home-to-school transport and various forms of great made to individual pupils according to means.

The figures that reflect more closely the comparative annual costs of maintained school places are those published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance







# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

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Ind 419.6 down 0.6  
Gilt 65.46 up 0.15

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ollar  
ex 85.3 up 0.2

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**N BRIEF**  
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**undancies**  
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that Honfroy  
was closing down its  
Sowerby Bridge, near  
Bailey. Another 150  
are told they will lose  
in the spring. The  
blamed a pre-tax loss  
in.

**Japan optimistic**  
Mr Hiroshi Ikawa, managing  
director of the co-ordination  
bureau at the Economic Plan-  
ning Agency, told the press in  
Tokyo that Japan's forecasts  
were generally better than  
those for other nations in the  
Organization for Economic Co-  
operation and Development.

### PRICE CHANGES

H'shire 15p to 40p  
old 10c to 25p  
22p to 71p  
"A" 10p to 65p  
14p to 91p

## National import surveillance licensing to end in new year

By Peter Hill  
Industrial Editor

Import surveillance licensing is to be abolished from the beginning of next year but the Government stressed last night that this would not undermine its ability to ensure orderly regulation of imports.

Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Trade, said: "National surveillance licensing involved a substantial burden on industry and Government; it was expensive in terms of manpower and time, and its impact on reducing imports was minimal. I am glad to see another costly piece of unnecessary bureaucracy disappear."

This year the Department of Trade has issued more than 200,000 import licences; half were issued for national surveillance import licensing. The surveillance licences have been available freely.

The department said: "They have not provided accurate information about actual levels of imports in the pipeline. Attempts have been made to establish a correlation between the issue of licences and the eventual outcome but this has not proved possible."

But the department noted that the EEC's bilateral agreements with textile supplying countries incorporated trigger points based solely on the actual level of imports for considering the imposition of quotas.

Ending the system will please the TUC which will see the move as posing a further threat to jobs in the textile and clothing industries which have been badly hit by cheap imports.

### UK output falls

Britain's output fell by 2 per cent in the third quarter of this year, according to revised figures produced by the Central Statistical Office. The figures confirm earlier provisional estimates and are distorted by the impact of strikes.

The test for the company now is just how wisely it will receive its asserted forms including \$1,500m of government-guaranteed loans. Chrysler plans to switch to a new, fuel-efficient medium-sized car within 10 months and institute a variety of organisational actions aimed at making it a somewhat smaller and decidedly more efficient company.

Last night, the United States Senate voted 43 to 34 in favour of the "Chrysler Corporation Loan Guarantee Act of 1979" and the House of Representatives approved this measure by a vote of 241 to 124.

The law stipulates that an array of conditions must be fulfilled before the government can go ahead and guarantee the \$1,500m of loans. First,

Chrysler's workers, who are

## Hongkong bank bid for Gibbs

By Michael Prest

The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation has opened discussions with Anthony Gibbs Holdings, the banking, fund management and insurance group, about acquiring the 60 per cent of Gibbs it does not already own.

Both parties and their advisers say it is too early to give details about terms of a possible offer. But Gibbs' shares rose 22p to 71p, at which price the group is valued at about £14m.

The move comes soon after the Hong Kong and Shanghai, which is domiciled in Zurich, announced that one of its chief subsidiaries, the British head office in London, to the Colony, Acquiring Gibbs, which is a member of the Accepting Houses Committee, the select inner circle of British merchant banks, would therefore be a way in which the Hong Kong and Shanghai could keep its wholly-owned subsidiary in the United Kingdom.

Over recent months the Hong Kong has also purchased several of Gibbs' peripheral assets. In September it paid £163,691,068 for Anthony Gibbs Ireland. Two months

later the Hong Kong and Shanghai forced Gibbs to sell its 25 per cent stake in Wirtschafts- und Privatbank, of Zurich, because Hong Kong was opening a branch in Zurich. Last in October, Anthony Gibbs sold its holding in Wardley Middle East to the Hong Kong and Shanghai. Wardley is a wholly owned merchant bank subsidiary of the Hong Kong.

Since the 40 per cent stake in Gibbs was acquired in 1974, the Hong Kong and Shanghai has seen the value of its share roughly halve. Disclosed after-tax profits at Gibbs fell from £1.1m to £0.7m in 1978. Assets in 1978 were only slightly more than in the previous year.

For several years the bulk of Anthony Gibbs' profits have come from associated companies. Last year, for example, associated companies contributed £282,000.

In June Gibbs arranged a loan for a Saudi Arabian company in conjunction with the Saudi British Bank, which is 40 per cent owned by the British Bank of the Middle East.

Anthony Gibbs is obviously attractive as an Accepting House, though Bank of England approval would be required for a full

takeover. Among other things it would allow a foreign-based bank such as the Hong Kong and Shanghai to take full advantage of its Export Credit business. Gibbs also has interests in funds, fund managing and timber in Australia.

But a Hongkong and Shanghai spokesman last night refused to comment on a possible bid complication concerning Gibbs' important insurance subsidiaries, which include Lloyd's brokers Anthony Gibbs Sage.

Under Lloyd's rules foreign groups are generally banned from owning more than 20 per cent of a group's holding business. In the exchange of ownership in the case of Hongkong and Shanghai the holding is already 40 per cent. Despite its strong British links, Hongkong and Shanghai is domiciled overseas and Lloyd's may be forced to stand firm on the rules covering foreign ownership.

If Lloyd's could be considerably embarrassed in its discussions with American broking groups which are currently pressing for a stronger foothold in the market via links with British. Following precedents Hongkong and Shanghai might thus be forced to sell on at least 75 per cent of the Gibbs' broking interests.

## Christmas sales 'dismay' retailers

By Derek Harris  
Commercial Editor

Retailers, dismayed by the mid-December start to Christmas buying, are reporting a last minute rush to the shops, but are far from euphoric about the sales outcome in real terms. There are also increasing fears about the amount of stocks built-up in the pipeline in both warehouse and man's wear.

Specialists, who are relying largely on clothing, have already had sales signs up for some weeks, and are making extensive reductions in an attempt to move heavy stocks that are now costing more to cover by bank loans.

At John Lewis's 18 stores, fashion sales showed a 0.2 per cent decrease in the past week in November and recovered the following week only to a 9.5 per cent increase. This is compared with an overall sales increase of 16.5 per cent in the first week in December.

This figure showed little change on an 18 week figure of 16.3 per cent, reflecting the lag in the start of Christmas selling early in December. Fashion sales in the 18 week period ended December 8, showed only an 11 per cent rise.

Although fashion sales figures look like showing further improvements in the past week, they are likely to remain among the poorer performers.

Part of the problem is that a mild autumn has held off the normal buying of winter clothing. If bitter weather comes the balance might be redressed to some extent, although retailers are now moving into the January sales period with reduced margins.

But there is evidence that women have been buying fewer clothes, apart from the effects of an indifferent summer on sales of lighter wear.

Constraints because of less money have coincided with a period in which extreme fashion changes seem to have been ignored, with taste favouring co-ordinates on which changes can be run more readily and thus more cheaply.

There must be a question mark over manufacturers who may not only have excessive stock on their hands, but may get little help from retailers wary of heavy future buying because of an expected downturn in retail sales in the early part of next year.

## US imposes strict aid terms on Chrysler

From Frank Vogl  
Washington, Dec 21

President Carter will sign legislation soon to give Chrysler Corporation, the tenth largest manufacturer in the United States, sufficient funds to avoid bankruptcy.

The test for the company now is just how wisely it will receive its asserted forms including \$1,500m (about £1,393m) that it will receive in assorted forms including \$1,500m of government-guaranteed loans. Chrysler plans to switch to a new, fuel-efficient medium-sized car within 10 months and institute a variety of organisational actions aimed at making it a somewhat smaller and decidedly more efficient company.

Last night, the United States Senate voted 43 to 34 in favour of the "Chrysler Corporation Loan Guarantee Act of 1979" and the House of Representatives approved this measure by a vote of 241 to 124.

The law stipulates that an array of conditions must be fulfilled before the government can go ahead and guarantee the \$1,500m of loans. First,

members of the United Auto Workers Union, must accept a \$462.5m cut in planned wage increases that amount to between \$1,100m and \$1,300m over the next 33 months. Then Chrysler's non-union employees must accept a cut of \$125m in their earnings.

To make such income reductions more attractive, the politicians stipulated in the new law that Chrysler should issue \$162.5m worth of shares to its workers.

Also, the government-supported loans will only be granted onto the banks have agreed to lend Chrysler about \$50m after state and local governments have agreed to give the company \$250m and Chrysler's dealers and suppliers have put up a further \$150m.

Government and Chrysler officials are confident that all these conditions can be met, although they believe this may take two to three months. Meanwhile a frantic search is going ahead to find interim financing for the company, which claims it may well need \$500m to overcome cash problems in the next month.

## Eurocanadian shares switch is rejected

By Peter Wainwright

Eurocanadian Shipholdings, the private Canadian-owned shipping group based in Switzerland and Bermuda, has been told that its scheme to transfer an 18.4 per cent shareholding in Furness Withy, the shipping group, to three ECS shareholders or affiliates has not won official approval.

Mrs Sally Oppenheim, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, is preparing an order to ensure that the voting rights of these shareholders cannot be used to secure boardroom representation in Furness Withy.

The Eurocanadian scheme was designed to satisfy an undertaking given in 1975, that it would lower its holding in Furness Withy to no more than 10 per cent in a reasonable time.

The assurance was prompted by a Monopolies Commission recommendation that a merger between Eurocanadian and Furness Withy to an end. He did not consider that the intention of the undertaking had been fulfilled. Mrs Oppenheim agreed with him.

Under the proposed divestment, Dolphin Investments was to have received 11.2 per cent of the Furness equity. Dolphin is controlled by Mr Frank Narby, Eurocanadian's chief executive, and his family.

Helix Investments or its British affiliates was to get 3.9 per cent. Helix is a company controlled by Mr D. Webster and his family. Mr Webster is a director of Eurocanadian Shipholdings.

Canadian National Railways is its pension fund were to acquire 3.3 per cent of Furness; Canadian National owns 18 per cent of Eurocanadian.

Mr Narby announced that he planned to resign as chief executive of Eurocanadian from January 1, and live in England again.

Mr Frank Narby, commenting on Mrs Oppenheim's decision said: "The management of Eurocanadian will be studying the implications of the Secretary of State's decision. I shall be studying the decision for the possible effect on Dolphin and would expect to have fully digested the implications by the time I start my new activities in London early in January".

By Our United States Economics Correspondent

Consumer prices in America rose by another 1 per cent in November, taking the annual rate of inflation to 12.9 per cent, according to the Bureau of Labour Statistics. Government officials expect worse inflation news in coming months.

But against this gloomy background there was some cheerful economic news. The Department of Commerce reported the current account balance of payments had moved into a \$762m (£348m) surplus in the third quarter, after a second quarter deficit of \$1,060m (about £484m).

Officials admit they are worried about inflation. High interest rates are tending to boost housing prices sharply and last month prices for new houses rose 1.3 per cent.

Mr Charles Duncan, the energy secretary, said that latest oil decisions might raise domestic petrol prices by 8 per cent soon. He described the decision by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries in Caracas this week as "a threat to our national security and economic well-being".

The statistics bureau also reported that real disposable earnings fell by 0.3 per cent last month, taking the decline for the last 12 months to 5.1 per cent. America's consumer price index now stands at 227.5 (1967 equals 100).

Personal Finance and Investment, page 18

ability for monitoring the motor group would remain with the NEB for the moment.

Sir Keith said he believed that BL might now reconsider its request to be moved directly under the wing of the Department of Industry in view of the "new faces" on the new NEB board.

BL made its request after the Government agreed to take over responsibility for Rolls-Royce and prompted the mass resignation of the previous NEB board.

Yesterday the board was due to consider the provision of further aid of up to £25m for INMOS subsidiary to design and make micro-processors and other advanced micro-circuits, but last night the NEB would not say what decisions had been taken.

Sir Keith, who yesterday appointed Mr Ian Halliday a member of the board from February 1, after his selection by the NEB as its new chief executive, 10 days ago, came under criticism from one of his own

In a letter to Sir Keith, Mr Michael Grylls, a vice-chairman of the Tory industry committee, said that he had been "astonished" to learn that the NEB had spent about £220m since the Government was elected.

## American inflation at 12.9pc

By Our Industrial Editor

Further discussions between Sir Arthur Keith, chairman of the National Enterprise Board and Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, are expected to take place shortly, to discuss the board's worries on the extent of government control over its activities envisaged in its draft guidelines for the NEB.

At the first full meeting of the new NEB board yesterday, Sir Arthur assured endorsement of his stand. The board also expected to get qualified support from the CBI which will submit its observations to Sir Keith in the new year.

Sir Arthur wants to be allowed to operate in as full a commercial sense as possible, and he is worried at the prospect of Sir Keith insisting on monitoring individual investment rates and on controlling the NEB initiative in developing new businesses.

The extent to which the Government will issue directions on the level and size of disposals to be implemented by the NEB is another source of uncertainty.

The new board will also want to clarify its relationship with BL, although Sir Keith indicated in his announcement on the BL corporate plan earlier this week, that responsibility

## Support for NEB stand against state control

By Our Industrial Editor

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Sir Arthur wants to be allowed to operate in as full a commercial sense as possible, and he is worried

## PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

## Is £500 burning a hole in your Christmas stocking?

A present of £500 to spend on yourself—it conjures up all sorts of possibilities. To see what they came up with I gave regular contributors to the Saturday Personal Investment and Finance pages £500 each—no strings attached. I did suggest, though £250 should perhaps go on a serious investment, with the other half spent frivolously.

The only pity is that the money wasn't real

Margaret Drummond

Investment, like charity, should begin at home. I would spend at least half my £500 entirely on myself. What better than a long weekend at a health farm some time in January or February to shed the weight gained at Christmas?

It would be a sound investment. Even the cheapest clothes look quite reasonable on the slender. I would probably save at least half the cost of the treatment over the rest of the year.

While I was there I would make sure I spent plenty of time under the sun lamp. This would save the cost of acquiring that glamorous winter tan by going on an expensive Caribbean cruise or a ski holiday.

Having spent half the money on myself the rest would be devoted to choosing investments for others. As a child or, for that matter, even as an adult, I have never found cash or never cash a very exciting kind of present. Like syrup of figs, book tokens and premium bonds are altogether too sensible and good for you. My investment Christmas presents would not be frivolous but they would have to give joy as well as a hedge against inflation.

For a daughter I would choose a really lovely antique Victorian doll complete with hand-made wardrobe. A hundred pounds spent on a collector's item like this would be an excellent investment.

For a son a hundred pounds worth of old records would be my choice. Collecting rare, unusual or otherwise important copies of old pop records is big business now.

Another hundred pounds would be spent on a beautiful old may to hang in my husband's study. Maps have proved an excellent investment and there is no capital gains tax to pay. For my mother I might spend a hundred pounds on a rare old book.

There is a hundred pounds left, so what would I do with it? I think I would buy some back numbers of *Private Eye*. The early editions have become collector's items. And reading them would keep my mind from thoughts of food while I languished in my health farm.

Roger Beard

Christmas money should not be spent seriously, except on goods you otherwise would not buy and investments you otherwise could not afford.

Spending the £500 in two, the first £250 is easy to spend: £110

would find its way immediately into the betting shop, on a £5 each way Yankee—which gives 11 bets on four chosen horses, spread over doubles, trebles, and an accumulator on all four.

Nothing is more likely toiven up Boxing Day's afternoon television, particularly if all four horses romp home first.

The other £140 must go to the wife and in our family on well-fashioned, hand-thrown pottery which we would not normally buy. Ideally, I would plump for a dinner service from Wendy Bainbridge of the Camden Lock Pottery, London.

There then comes the second £250 to be used for investments. This is the money I would put into the bank, the building society, gold coins or even stamps.

But what one needs is something to look at, gloat over and which still has a good chance of increasing in value. The answer, for me, is Georgian silver—preferably George III. Christie's silver sale on Thursday gave certain indicators. Their estimate list had one lot of a plated tea caddy and mug both early nineteenth century, going at £220 together.

Margaret Stone

One of the perks of this job is that, once a year, I can give myself £500 to spend—in *Monopoly* money. Ah well, it's the thought that counts.

I am spending just over £200 on an AEG or Zanussi fridge-freezer from a local discount store. The price reductions are substantial and the service offered is good. Both are models which can be fitted with a left-hand opening door. I am not left-handed but the kitchen space allocated to this new labour-saving device demands some ambidexterity.

A freezer is essential in our household to save my husband and daughter from countless, inevitable takeaway meals bought in haste because the order was late. At £6.10 *thru* (awop), there will be a clear financial saving.

I am also buying the freezer as an anti-inflation device. The cost-of-living index will be running at an annual rate of 20 per cent by next year and the prospect of rising food bills is not one I relish.

To complete my investment I know that I ought to spend the remaining £275 odd on a well diversified portfolio of sausages, lamb chops, ice cream and next year's Christmas turkey. But I'm not. I have always hankered after an emerald ring; I don't care if its value goes up or down, although as emeralds are among the scarcest of gem stones, I expect it will rise. So, I will take a trip down Hutton Garden to find one.

Danby Bloch

Half of the tax due

A £500 sum investment presented no problem at all. It is just about used up my remaining allowance for investing in a self-employed retirement savings for 1978-79. I could backdate the relief on the premium to that year because it is still "open" for me. I have only just received my final agreed assessment.

Even after assiduous tax planning my top rate on earned income was 75 per cent. Consequently, my investment in a self-employed pension scheme, for which I received full tax relief, meant diverting £375 from the amount that I owed to the Revenue and spending only £125 extra of my own money.

I then realized that although I had invested £500 in a pension scheme I will have £375 left buying the chest of drawers.

MS.

Sally-Anne Murray

Indispensable secretary

It is, I fear, only a theoretical £500, but still very worthwhile speculating about.

Putting aside all thoughts of spending the whole amount on myself and not having the perspicacity of those qualified in the realms of investment, I think investing should be for enjoyment as well as one's own financial gain.

For my part, I would invest £300 in antique collecting. Pot lids have always been one ambition I have never really been able to follow through, as it can be an expensive pastime.

Pot lids range from £40 to well over £200, but they do not seem to lose value either.

First things first though: a box on four sides is a necessity. Having been recommended a paperback book on the subject called *Collecting Pot-Lids Coloured, Black & White, with Current Price Trends*, written by Alan Bell and published by Southern Collectors in August, I decided to set aside the required £275 from the £500 to spend on this.

I now have the fascinating exercise of meandering through antique shops, extracting the what from the chaff.

Having sorted the more serious side of investing my money—I am now, with a guilt-free conscience, think about spending the £200 left on myself.

I am sure most people would agree that on occasion there is a need to escape from the drudgery of everyday happenings—so what better than to get away from it all and take myself on a skiing holiday in the Swiss Alps. I would go in January or February when everyone else is beginning to look rather pallid and withered and when the high point of conversation is the miserable, cold British weather, the coming Budget and the general state of affairs in Britain.

Eric Brunet

Readers' Forum pensions expert

There is never such a good time for investments as when times are bad! Wish interest rates high, prices are low. Fixed interest securities have reacted most quickly and would be my first choice for investment at the moment.

As regards my frivolous investment my first thoughts were to buy wine. The disadvantage is the difficulty of storing it and if I did I fear I would be in a mess in bargaining with an antique dealer.

I therefore decided on a diamond offered to me by some diamond brokers, whom I know and trust. Although some have had unfortunate experiences with diamond investments, I have seen clients make over 70 per cent on the purchase and sale of diamonds between 1974 and 1978. Obviously, they are not without their snags but selling looks easier and there is a lower bid and offer spread than with most antiques.

With the £25 balance left

I should take my wife out for a decent meal—a sound investment in its own right and a small compensation for not buying the chest of drawers.



MS.

Vera Di Palma

Readers' Forum tax specialist

Whenever I spend my £500 I shall do so with two goals in mind—*to keep pace with inflation* and *the value to avoid paying tax on my income or gains*.

If there is anything left over this £250 I shall give to a charity helping the starving overseas. They need money, not only because of future inflation, but because this can help communities to become self-supporting. I consider it a worthwhile investment for the future.

With such high rates of interest available, I should like to take advantage of them by investing in the tax-exempt National Savings certificates, but I doubt whether the income—even grossed up on my marginal tax rate—would keep pace with inflation.

So my proposed investment programme is this: I shall apply one half of the money with a view not only of achieving my two goals but adding a third at the same time—esthetic enjoyment. I shall put £250 into gold jewelry, giving me the delight of wearing it.

The other £250 will be applied to satisfying my life-long ambition of buying and selling stocks and shares with a nice security & might even beat the FT index.

## Title deeds • Pension benefits

Readers' Forum

This specialist readers service has been compiled with the help of

John Drummond, Vera

Di Palma, Ronald Irving

and Eric Brunet.

claim but the Inspector of Taxes manipulated the figure and estimated my repayment by grossing up the dividend at 33 per cent, thus artificially increasing the income, repaying at 30 per cent. It is not in advance of the life pension for the whole year 1979/80 before the pension has been paid, thus reducing the repayment to a minimum.

Please advise me how to deal with this matter. (DLJ, De set.)

The dividends with a 33/67 tax credit were declared by the company before the second budget reduced the basic rate of tax for 1979/80 from 33 per cent to 30 per cent. What happens in these circumstances, having paid the basic rate on behalf of the shareholder, obtains

claim of the 3 per cent dividend. The tax credit on the dividend, although reduced to 33/67ths, is then deducted by the Inland Revenue to be 3/7th (equivalent to a gross rate of 30 per cent), and the dividends should accordingly be grossed up at this lower rate. If the tax office has grossed up at 33 per cent the are in error and should be told so.

Concerning the other point on the taxation of the pension, find it surprising that the tax man is seeking to collect tax on the whole of the 1979/80 pension against the first six months repayment claim—particularly as this taxpayer has established a regular pattern of claims over the years. Pension are taxable under schedule 1 and the tax is not payable in advance. The reader should point this out to the taxman and ask for the repayment to be increased.

My daughter was seriously injured in an accident when being driven by her husband. She does not have a personal accident policy. Would she be able to claim under their motor policy? (JF, Swindon.)

Normally, there would be no cover for her for straight personal injury. If, however, the accident was caused by her husband's negligence she could claim against him and if he is found legally liable, the insurer would pay however much she succeeds in claiming from him. The fact that they are married does not prevent her from making such a claim

## Investor's week

### End of the beginning in the market?

This is the week when many City folk try to put as much space as possible between themselves and the Square Mile. Some go skiing, others dabble toes in the Caribbean, and the rest simply stay at home, happy to have abandoned the City pubs where bosses crowd out the regulars in their efforts to get their secretaries a drink.

But, among those whose heads were still clear, a still small thought began to arise. We may not have seen the beginning of the end of this bear market, but at least we have seen the end of the beginning.

The City does not really be-

lieve in monetarism: but it does believe in the economic cycle and the implication that business now turning down could well be thinking of picking up later this year. Some are penciling May in their diaries as the month to watch shares again start rising.

Meanwhile this week the FT index slipped from 431 to 419.6 in an atmosphere of increasing boredom.

Gilt hardened only momentarily on Mrs Thatcher's pledge to cut Government spending further and the City is content to wait and see. The retail prices index pointed to 20 per

cent annual inflation soon, but we have heard all that before.

The Bank of England and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development told tales of inflation and recession, but they, too, were old tales. The Opec oil producers ended their price-timing meeting in Caracas in disarray, but the City inclined to the Saudi Arabian view that oil could well be reasonably plentiful soon, damping oil prices.

Among companies the most representative of British industry was Associated Engineering. The year's profits crashed just as the wise said they would and the share rose as investors said what a fine recovery prospect the group must be.

So the City had a little seasonal cheer, after all. The view is gaining ground that oil does go into surplus and the United States continues to get its balance of payments right, as it did in the third quarter when the surplus in its current account was \$762m, world interest rates really peaked.

The time of financial stress and labour troubles in British industry has only just begun; but at least it does look like like the end of the end.

Peter Wainwright

## Unit trusts

### Week of mixed fortunes for the funds

A mixed week for the unit trust industry. On Wednesday the Department of Trade at last lifted the restriction on unit trust fees, fixed in 1978. Yesterday, M & G, darling of the industry and unitholders alike, shocked everyone by announcing that it was having troubles with the taxman.

Let us take the bad news first. Although the problem at M & G, which centres on the City, is in disarray, the Saudi Arabian view that oil could well be reasonably plentiful soon, damping oil prices.

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Peter Wainwright

MS.

## Crossword

Asterisked clues:

Across: 1, 9, 11, 12, 14, 28, 31

32, Down: 1, 3, 6, 12, 15, 16, 17

23, 24, 26

## HOFF of HEYBRIDGE HEATH



MS.



## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Ansett bid by Thomas Nationwide

Thomas Nationwide Transport to offer \$2.25 a share to any Ansett Transport Industries shareholders who wish to accept.

Ansett has released TNT from a seven year old agreement limiting it to a 23.5 per cent maximum stake in Ansett. TNT already held about 20 per cent of Ansett and said several days ago that it was in the market for more script, pending such a decision from the Ansett board.

TNT's move follows the acquisition by News Corp of about 50 per cent of Ansett's issued capital of 77.12m shares, much of it at \$2.25 a share.

## Deutsche Babcock

Group net profit of Deutsche Babcock AG in the year ended September 30 was higher than the previous year's DM35.5m, managing board Chairman Herr Hans Ewaldsen said in the company's newsletter.

He did not give an exact figure, figures are due to be published next February.

He said Deutsche Babcock expects the German economic growth to slow next year, and

## Wall Street

New York, Dec 20.—Stocks moved in volatile trading, but a modest decline led advances by a small margin and popular averages were narrowly lower.

Analysts said although the one per cent rise in November consumer prices was less than expected, investors were a little more optimistic on interest rates. Citibank held its prime rate unchanged at 15 per cent this morning.

Volume leader Exxon ended 1 to 75.

New York, Dec 20.—Stocks rose as the New York Stock Exchange index added 0.08 to 62.08 and the average price per share four cents.

## Silver falls 20 cents

New York, Dec 20.—COMEX SILVER futures closed lower yesterday, but the prediction of Shahn Yarossi, who expects silver to rise to \$100 a tonne this year, was upheld.

The forecast underpins a rise of 18 cents to \$30 a barrel.

Gold futures rose 26 cents to \$27.50m; March, 267.60m.

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## Stock Exchange Prices **Gilts firm**

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began Dec 10. Dealings End Dec 27. & Contango Day Dec 28. Settlement Day Jan 7.

6 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

Prices on this page are now supplied by Exchange Telegraph's Epic system and are the last prices available from London stock market dealers yesterday evening. Various indices produced by The Times, including the Index of 150 industrial stocks, are being reviewed and recalculated.

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The four major products of the Index, including the Index of 150 Industrial stocks, are being reviewed and recalcul-

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errors in advertisements. Each  
copy is carefully checked and  
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we do our best to check your  
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On any subsequent queries  
regarding the cancellation, this  
Stop Number must be quoted.

The Good News was unctional  
and the Good News is written in the  
Scriptures. It is about his Son,  
Jesus Christ. John 3:16  
Romans 1:3 (G.N.B.)

### BIRTHS

ALBURN—On 13 December, to  
Sue and De Gouy Alburn,  
and Charles. On December 1, to  
Vista and Linda (Gamble).  
John and Linda, and  
David and Linda.

BERNARDINE HEUKELAM

FARRAR—On November 19th in  
Bishopton to Keith and  
Sue, and their daughter,

Elizabeth. No. 1, and their  
daughter, Linda.

CHRISTOPHER HENRY

JOHNSON—On December 1st, to  
Gillian, and Michael, and  
their son, Luanne. Linda.

HEUNELAM—On December 17th in  
Bishopton to Keith and  
Sue, and their daughter,

Elizabeth. No. 1, and their  
daughter, Linda.

HENRY—On 20th December,  
to St. Mary's, Paddington, W.4,  
to Jean, and John, and  
James, and their son, and  
daughter.

MAELOM—On 18th December, in  
Bishopton to Keith and  
Sue, and their daughter,

MUNNIS—On December 1st, to  
Gillian, and Michael, and  
their daughter, Linda.

SINDEN—On 18th December, to  
Jenny, and David, and  
their daughter, Linda.

TOOKENS—On November 30th, to  
Keith, and Linda, and  
their daughter, Linda.

WILSON—On December 20th, to  
Linda, and Michael, and  
their daughter, Linda.

YATES—On December 20th, to  
Linda, and Michael, and  
their daughter, Linda.

BIRTHDAYS

ASHWELL—Cyril—Happy  
40th birthday. Love and best  
wishes.

### BIRTHDAYS

K. E. W. 90 today. Love and  
congratulations from your  
grandchildren, and great  
grandchildren.

JANET—Happy  
birthdays. Love and best  
wishes. Jacqueline—Happy birthday, all  
my love—Jim.

### MARRIAGES

BLIGG—JOHNSTON—On December  
13 at All Saints' Church,  
Mincing, Hampshire. William  
and Oliver.

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Mincing, Hampshire. William  
and Oliver.

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